

## THE COOLIE STRIKE.

(29th March.)

The Government is to be congratulated on the firm position it has taken up with regard to the coolie strike. The movement bears no resemblance to a wages dispute, but is in its essence a rebellion against the Government and should be dealt with as such. To some extent that has been already recognised. Had the strike taken place on the question of wages the Government would not have troubled itself about the matter further than to prevent any breach of the peace; but being directed, as it is, against the Government itself, measures have been taken to afford relief as far as possible to the trade of the port by allowing the employment of volunteers from the garrison and convicts from the gaol for the working of cargo. The assistance of the military in the crisis is proving of great value and General BARKER merits the thanks of the public for his action in the matter. But if the character of the strike justifies the employment of soldiers as cargo labourers it must also be held to justify severe measures against the strikers and those who are supporting them. The coolies cannot be compelled to work if they prefer to remain idle, but the leaders of the movement can be deported, and the guild, if its head quarters could be discovered, might be broken up. The Registrar-General's department is presumably well acquainted with all the guilds in existence in the colony and ought to be able to afford the Government information as to how the strike is being managed and who are at the bottom of it. It is alleged that there is a strike fund in existence of a substantial sum; this fund, if it could be discovered, might very fairly be taken charge of by the Government and, if not confiscated, at least applied to a more beneficial purpose than the promotion of a seditious movement like the present. It is not likely, however, that the money will be found; and there may be difficulties in getting at the guild; but it ought not to be difficult by means of the detective department to identify the keepers of common lodging houses who are immediately responsible for inducing the coolies to leave work, and these men should be dealt with by deportation. It may be that they are the tools of others in a higher station of life, and if so they might be allowed to save themselves by disclosing the names of those at whose behest they have acted, but the authority of the Government ought to be made evident by dealing severely with either the one or the other.

(1st April.)

The coolie strike, which was expected to come to an end on Saturday, seems likely to continue for another week, or as long as the resources of the coolies and their friends hold out. For this unfortunate state of affairs the committee appointed at Thursday's public meeting must be held *prima facie* responsible. It is of course impossible to say exactly what might have happened had that committee never interfered in the matter; the expected collapse of the strike might not at all have taken place. Nevertheless the fact remains that the action of the committee was calculated to weaken the hands of the Government and to encourage the strikers to prolong the struggle. Indeed men who had actually resumed work on Saturday morning "knocked off again when it was suggested to them that they had better wait and see what would come of the action of the committee. What has come of it will be seen in the report of the deputation to the Governor on Saturday. His Excellency refuses, and rightly refuses, to give way; but it is to be feared that after the unfortunate

proclamation issued by the committee the strikers will still think they have a chance of securing victory. Another public meeting is to be held this morning, at which no doubt the committee will tender their resignation, for their action appears to be universally condemned and is now no doubt recognised by themselves as having been a grave mistake, though at Government House on Saturday they were very indignant at some remarks made by Mr. MAY, the Captain Superintendent of Police. Mr. MAY seems to have gone on the legal maxim that every man must be presumed to have intended the natural consequences of his own action; whereas it appears that the committee should be held absolved on the ground of good intentions and error of judgment. If ever there was a case, however, in which a mistake may truly be said to have been worse than a crime it is the present.

It is to be hoped that the public meeting to be held this morning will give clear and distinct utterance to the feelings of the community. The first meeting was, as it turned out, an absurdity. It was notified as having been called "by request" and the proper course would have been for the Chairman to have given the names of those at whose request the meeting was called and to have asked them to state what proposals they had to submit. No one seemed to have any proposals, however, and it appeared to be a case of nothing but empty talk, until at the end of the meeting the Chairman suggested "as a practical measure" that a committee be elected "to deliberate upon this grave question and to put themselves in communication with the Government." So a committee was appointed, with no more definite instructions than the above, and instead of carrying out those instructions, such as they were, and placing themselves in communication with the Government, with incredible folly they placed themselves first in communication with the Chinese, commenced parleyings behind the back of the Government, and ended by issuing a proclamation, in itself highly objectionable and which was rendered still more so when it appeared in a Chinese dress. No one knows better than the committee, collectively and individually, what tricks can be played in Chinese translation, yet they seem to have taken no precautions to guard against misrepresentation on this important occasion, the consequence being that a proclamation was issued in Chinese which amounted virtually to a declaration of surrender on the part of the European mercantile community. Nothing could have been farther from the intention of the public meeting held on Thursday. The intention of those present at that meeting was evidently to support the Government and had it occurred to any one to propose a resolution to the effect that the meeting endorsed the action of the Government and pledged itself to support it, the motion would, we believe, have been carried with practical unanimity. The general opinion is that the law against which the coolies are in rebellion is a wholesome and necessary law and that the measures taken by the Government to meet the crisis and minimise the loss and inconvenience which the strike is causing to the shipping trade are worthy of all praise. We hope that opinion will find due expression at the meeting this morning and that the community will present a united front.

We appeal from Mr. MACKINTOSH as a member of the committee to Mr. MACKINTOSH as a speaker at Thursday's meeting, when he said "Unless we take steps to combat this evil"—steps that shall be powerful enough to "break once for all this series of strikes to which the colony has been subjected during the last ten or twenty years—we

"may as well give up our profession here." That fairly represents the feeling of the community—a determination to break the striking system. It is no use quibbling about nice questions of law at the present stage. If that point were gone into it would not be difficult to show that the substitution of the house owner for the keeper of the common lodging house as the party to register would be altogether inadvisable and impracticable. Furthermore, if side issues were to be gone into, in order to avoid such conflicts in the future we would urge, as we have urged many times before, that some effective means should be provided for the expression of public opinion amongst the native community. We would like to see the municipal government of the colony vested in the hands of a Municipal Council on which the Chinese should be well represented. At Shanghai the Municipal Council, even without native representation, secures compliance with all its regulations and no serious strike has ever occurred there such as we have had so many of in this colony. Failing a Municipal Council we might have a Chinese Advisory Board such as they have at Singapore. All that, however, is beside the question of the moment, which is whether the colony is to weakly surrender to a strike of coolies who have absolutely no legitimate grievance. In a small community like this there is necessarily a good deal of the "follow my leader" feeling and the members of the committee appointed at Thursday's meeting being all prominent and influential men the meeting to be held to-day would no doubt feel somewhat diffident about formally censuring their action. If the committee resign then the less said the better. All that would remain to be done would be to pass a vote of confidence in the Government. What is wanted now is not talk but action.

## ENGLAND AND JAPAN.

There seems to be in certain quarters at the present time a disposition to regard Japan's growth in power as inimical to British interests, and some writing of a mischievous character, calculated to stir up bad blood, has been indulged in on the subject. Laying aside all prejudice and passion, how does the case present itself? As every nation has to closely watch the doings of its neighbours and to take such measures as may be necessary to maintain its relative military efficiency, so England will now have to watch Japan and to strengthen her own fleet in Eastern waters to meet the new conditions and the alteration in the balance of power. Japan aims at being the dominant Power of the Far East; but that position is at present held by Great Britain, who intends to retain it. Japanese rivalry, both political and commercial, is therefore a factor that Great Britain has to reckon with. But national rivalry does not necessarily mean national hatred and hostility, any more than commercial rivalry between individuals necessarily means the destruction of private friendships. If at any time a misunderstanding should unfortunately arise between England and Japan England must be prepared to hold her own, and in view of such a possibility it is necessary that she should take careful stock of Japan's growing strength; but in the meantime it is to the interest of England, as it is and ought to be her inclination, to cultivate and maintain friendly relations with the rising Power whose conduct of the present war has excited such genuine and widespread admiration.

We have heard the view expressed that



England should prevent the acquisition of Formosa by Japan, on the ground that the possession of that island carries with it the command of the Formosa Channel and that a new risk for British trade and shipping would thereby be created. The risk cannot be denied, but the way to meet it is, not to make an enemy of Japan, but to keep the British fleet in these waters up to such a standard as shall be sufficient to guard against the risk. We fail to see on what grounds of equity or reason England could interfere with Japanese designs on Formosa. England has had opportunities of taking the island before and has not thought fit to avail itself of them. To step in now and prevent Japan taking possession would not only be a dog in the manger policy but would create a greater danger than that which it is suggested should be guarded against. It would secure for us the undying hatred of Japan, and although that country standing alone would not be able to cause much embarrassment to England, in the event of our being involved in a war with some other Power or Powers her alliance with the enemy might become a matter of serious danger. On the other hand, if Japan is allowed to work her will in Formosa uninterfered with she will open up that rich island to trade, will develop its resources, and so contribute to the commercial progress of the Far East and to the profits of British merchants and shipowners.

Then we are confronted by the rabid utterances of a portion of the Japanese press, in which a strong anti-English feeling is now finding vent. That, too, is a matter of which note must be taken, for the trend of public opinion in Japan has now become a matter of some material importance to England. There is no doubt a very considerable party of Japanese, ignorant, ultra-patriotic, and hot-headed, who, having seen the ease with which China has been conquered, and inspired with a thirst for national glory, would, absurd and hairbrained as the idea seems, be glad to see their country try conclusions with England. But that party represents only the froth and scum of Japanese public opinion and its utterances should be appraised at their true value. Japanese statesmen, who are supported by the real solid public opinion of the nation, recognise the actualities of the situation, and while no doubt ready to take advantage of any opportunities for national aggrandisement which the course of events may place in their way they are too astute not to value the friendship of England and to avoid becoming embroiled with her. But the Japanese are not to be taken on trust any more than other Powers. As England <sup>England</sup> watches her neighbours in Europe and to increase her armament as they increase theirs, taking care always to keep the command of the seas, so must she watch her neighbours in the Far East and be prepared to strengthen her position and circumscribe the power they may require. All that means is that the Governor recommends, but these will be met by a sum of \$58,000 for profits from increased compensation in respect of occupation of approximately the unexpected and the opening sum previously voted. It is expected to follow as matter that at the meeting of the Council on November 17th.

**THE JAPANESE IN FORMOSA.**

It will be interesting to watch the movements of the Japanese in Formosa. So far there is little information to hand concerning the operations against the island beyond the facts, received by telegram, that the Pescadores have been taken and that a portion of the Japanese fleet is blockading Tamsui, with a view, doubt

ess, of effecting a landing somewhere in the north of the island. Remembering what the French attempted and how they failed to make good the occupation they intended, it may be useful to recall their proceedings. They landed at Kelung and for some months held the port, but they were never able to penetrate into the surrounding country; and the landings at Tamsui, though effected under the guns of the squadron, proved abortive, for the landing parties had to return to their boats. The blockade which Admiral Coubert was at such pains to establish proved ineffective and in no way incommoded the Chinese in Formosa, who found both junks and steamers to successfully run the gauntlet of the French cruisers. The Chinese defences in Formosa were under the command of LIU MIX-CHUAN, who was certainly no more of a military genius than the mandarins who have failed so ignominiously in the present war in Korea and Manchuria. But LIU knew how to keep out the enemy from Formosa, chiefly because the latter was ignorant of local conditions and partly because he was numerically weak. Another reason was the fact that the French had no base sufficiently near from which to organise their attack. The Japanese have already avoided this initial mistake by seizing Makung, in the Pescadores, a good harbour and convenient for the purpose, one moreover they doubtless intend to retain as a dependency of Formosa. They will also, when ready to land, do so in sufficient force to push on to Taipeh, the inland capital. Another landing will probably be made at Takow with a view to investing Taiwan, the seat of government. It is hardly likely, however, that the Governor of Formosa will allow the invasion to be an absolute walk over, though the resistance may prove very feeble. If the Chinese are determined to oppose all attempts to land they may, spite of their lack of discipline and ignorance of military tactics, make it warm for the invaders. According to latest advices they have some 80,000 troops of sorts, and most of them are armed with Meuser rifles. The forts and batteries are armed with Krupp and Armstrong guns, and they are well provided with ammunition. The country, too, is difficult, being provided with plenty of cover, offering great facilities for the maintenance of a protracted guerilla warfare. The Hakkas, who are hunters by trade, are also skilled marksmen and good bush fighters. Yet we do not anticipate any prolonged resistance to Japanese progress when once they have established a landing. That the Japanese have laid their plans we may be sure, and they will be certain to astonish the Chinese by taking steps never anticipated. The uncertainty and mystery which have always attended Japanese movements have done much to take the heart out of the Chinese, who are always greatly disgusted and demoralised by any unexpected attack in a vulnerable quarter.

**EXCHANGE COMPENSATION.**

At the meeting of the Finance Committee on Thursday the Hon. E. R. BELILIOS said he did not suppose the question of exchange compensation had been cleared up even now, and the hon. gentleman appears to have been right in his supposition, for the Colonial Secretary replied that Lord RIXON had laid it down that the arrangement was to be subject to reconsideration yearly. What is to be the basis of this reconsideration? The Colonial Secretary says he has no doubt that if exchange fluctuates very largely the matter will be reconsidered, which seems to indicate entitlement to for further compensation may

at some time be advanced. When the announcement was made that the members of the service were to be allowed to draw half their salary while on active service at 3s. to the dollar the general impression was that the arrangement was definite and would remain in force permanently unless exchange should again reach 3s., when it would naturally cease, as the officials then would be willing to take the whole of their pay in silver. But it would seem that this is not the idea of the officials themselves. If exchange goes down even to a shilling the colony is to pay them the difference between the current rate and the fixed rate of 3s. There will be no reconsideration on that side of the scale we may be sure. But if exchange goes up, what then? As the rise will diminish the number of dollars an officer will receive he will have another grievance and will perhaps claim compensation for the rise in exchange. That seems to be the only interpretation that can be put upon the statement that the arrangement is to be subject to reconsideration yearly and the Colonial Secretary's remark that if exchange fluctuates very largely the matter will be reconsidered. Since the Secretary of State's decision was given exchange has, much to official disgust, risen nearly a penny, thereby reducing incomes under the new scheme by two per cent. If exchange were to rise steadily month by month and an official had a smaller number of dollars to draw every pay day he would naturally feel sore about it, and the arrangement being subject, as now appears, to reconsideration yearly, and the vote for exchange compensation having become a fixed feature in the budget, he would proceed to seek a readjustment. When exchange rises say to 2s. 6d., if it ever does, and official incomes have thereby been diminished by some twelve per cent., a movement may be anticipated for raising the basis of compensation from the fixed rate of 3s. to the dollar to 3s. 6d. to the dollar, say; and ultimately, if exchange still continued its upward course, to 4s. 2d. At that point the demand would necessarily have to change its name and the so-called compensation would have to be frankly asked for under the name of an increase of salary. We do not advocate a niggardly scale of pay for the civil service, and we sympathise with them in the loss that they, in common with other classes in the colony, have been subjected to by the fall in exchange, but we object to the exchange compensation scheme. If salaries had from any cause become too small it would have been better to have given an honest increase than to have introduced the uncertainty of exchange into the contracts between the colony and its servants. Officials have grumbled enough about their loss by the fall in exchange, though that was a loss that touched only some of them, and them only indirectly, but if they find that, owing to a rise in exchange, the actual number of dollars they receive diminishes month by month, they will all become a prey to discontent until the money which has been voted under the specious name of exchange compensation is given to them by a readjustment of the basis on which that compensation is payable or by a frank and open increase of salaries. The present arrangement is very much like playing at tossing for halfpence. If exchange goes down the officials win and the colony loses; if exchange goes up the officials lose and the colony wins. But as the game seems to be considered a little too risky for the officials the conditions are to be subject to reconsideration yearly, so that in the long run it shall resolve itself, for the officials, into a game of heads I win tails you lose. That, at least, is the inference to be drawn from what was said at the meeting of

for his shield. It is a belief that is the greatest



the Finance Committee on Thursday, but in order to make the matter quite clear it would be well that Lord Elton's despatch should be published, so that the public may know what the yearly reconsideration that is spoken of really means.

### THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN AND THE ATTACK ON LI HUNG-CHANG.

After the attack on Li Hung-chang the Emperor of Japan, deeply grieved, issued the following rescript:—

"China is now in a state of war with our country, but as she sent us in due observance of forms and etiquette an Ambassador for the conclusion of peace, we also named our Plenipotentiaries and instructed them to meet and negotiate with him at Shimodoseki. It being thus incumbent upon us, in pursuance of international usage, to extend to the Chinese Ambassador treatment consistent with the national honour and accord him sufficient escort and protection, we issued particular orders to our officials to do their utmost in these respects. It is therefore a matter for our most profound grief and regret that there should have been a ruffian base enough to inflict any personal injury upon the Chinese Ambassador. As to the culprit he shall be sentenced to the severest punishment provided by law. We hereby order our officials and subjects to pay respect to our wishes and preserve the glory of the country from degradation by strictly providing against the recurrence of such deeds of violence and lawlessness."

### AN ARMISTICE GRANTED.

In order to atone for the outrage on Li Hung-chang, the Mikado has decreed that an unconditional armistice shall be granted until peace negotiations now in progress are concluded.

#### LIMITATIONS OF THE ARMISTICE.

The armistice decreed by the Mikado is limited to operations in the Shantung province and the Gulf of Pechili and will expire on the 20th instant if the peace negotiations are carried on to that date. If, however, they are broken off in the meantime the armistice will terminate simultaneously.

### THE JAPANESE AT THE PESCADORES.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] ANPING, 28th March.

H.M.S. *Leander*, which has just returned to Takow from a visit to the Pescadores, confirms the news that the Japanese are in complete possession. Four thousand troops have been landed there.

#### THE POSITION IN SOUTH FORMOSA.

The following are extracts from a letter received from Anping:—

For some day previous to the 23rd March reports were current that two French men-of-war were at the Pescadores and then that several ships were anchored outside, showing no colours.

At 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, the 23rd, the telegraph people received a wire stating that the forts were being bombarded. The news spread very quickly and there was great excitement in Anping. Official messages blocked the line and it was difficult to get any reliable information from the Telegraph office. After several messages had been got through for Hongkong and the mainland further war telegrams were forbidden. At 4 p.m. communication with the Pescadores became interrupted, but at about 7 p.m. a telegram was received stating that severe fighting was going on and that the Japanese had landed 2,000 men. Two of the forts had fallen. After dark the attacking ships used the electric light.

Sunday, 24th.—At daylight fighting recommenced, but at 8 a.m. the cable was broken, and further news was not to be obtained, but it is generally supposed that the Japanese were in full possession before dark.

A large Amoy junk arrived on Saturday and reports having been boarded and searched by a Japanese cruiser in the neighbourhood of Rover Channel.

H.M.S. *Leander* is at Takow, but up to the present no protection has been afforded Anping,

which fact causes no little comment, since nearly all foreigners reside there and the bulk of the trade is carried on there.

Business is completely suspended, and all available sugar is being shipped away, in anticipation of an early descent upon Formosa. All is quiet so far, but it is an anxious time for the foreign community, and several ladies are leaving the port for the mainland.

### THE CLOSING OF THE PORT OF TAMSUI.

#### FURTHER PARTICULARS.

#### TORPEDOES FILLED WITH PEAS.

From information gleaned on Friday we learn that the closing of the port of Tamsui is now completed and vessels have to discharge outside the bar. When the news reached Tamsui that the Japanese had captured the Pescadores and that an assault upon Formosa was probable, the Chinese residents at Tamsui were thrown into a state of great alarm. They are said to have run wildly about in all directions, frantically shouting and otherwise showing their deep rooted fear. Even the horses are spoken of as having caught the infection and rushing aimlessly about the streets; but this statement is doubtless a playful exaggeration. However, there is no doubt that the Chinese view the situation in a very serious light. They have laid down contact torpedoes in the harbour, and in such a manner that if they were effective a vessel could not possibly pass them. But whether these torpedoes are of any service, except perhaps to temporarily allay fear, is a doubtful question. A few days ago the Chinese naval authorities at Tamsui decided to experiment with a few, and an electric shock was given to explode them. The experiments resulted in complete failure, and when this strange behaviour on the part of the torpedoes was closely inquired into, it was found that they were filled with peas. The question, therefore, is whether the torpedoes which are being used to guard the entrance to the harbour are charged with nothing more deadly than a dozen pints of peas. Explosives are more expensive than peas—everyone will admit that—and the latest discovery only emphasises the fact that a Chinaman will wreck his country for the sake of a few cents. It will be remembered that at Weihaiwei shells discharged from Chinese cannon contained only sand.

The European ladies have left Tamsui for Amoy, and many of the leading Chinese merchants, and also the mandarins, have quitted the place for safety's sake. The European business men remain there to await further developments, although an attack by the Japanese is considered most probable. The fort of Tamsui is said to be strongly guarded by many big guns, and should the enemy make a descent upon the place a heavy battle will be inevitable. The Chinese are now actively engaged in target practice, and they are said to have made some good shooting.

An important point in the capture of the Pescadores by the Japanese is that on Sunday night they cut the cable between the islands and Taiwanfoo. The *Alger*, a French war-of-war, arrived recently at Amoy from Kelung, but although the Customs officials boarded her, no information could be obtained of the doings of the Japanese.

The German steamer *Martha*, late *Smith*, cleared at Shanghai on the 23rd March, ostensibly for Tamsui and Kelung, but it is said, according to the *N. C. Daily News*, that her real destination is a spot on the east coast of Formosa, where she will be able to safely land her cargo.

We (*Peking and Tientsin Times*) hear that nothing demoralized the sailors of the Chinese fleet at Weihaiwei so much as the capsizing of the man-of-war *Lai-yuen*. This ship turned completely over with her whole crew within about ten minutes after being struck by a torpedo, and nearly all hands were drowned. The sailors of the fleet got it into their heads that if any of the other ships were torpedoed an immediate capsize would be the result, and it is said that most of the crews there and then refused duty. This ship, it will be remembered, was condemned by Admiral Lang as being too crank to be seaworthy, and by his orders ceased to carry her boats on the usual days.

### HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 28th March. Present:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. A. G. LEACH, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. A. M. THOMPSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.

Mr. A. Seth, Clerk of Councils.

#### FINANCIAL MINUTES.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Financial minutes 7, 8, and 9 were referred to the Finance Committee.

#### THE REGULATION OF SHEEP AND SWINE DEPOTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to move that certain by-laws made under section 13 of Ordinance 14 of 1887, for the regulation of public depôts for sheep and swine be approved by this Council. These by-laws have been made by the Sanitary Board.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER suggested that several of the by-laws went beyond what was provided for in the Ordinance, and that those referring to financial matters seemed to encroach upon the Governor's prerogative.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL thought it was a pity that the hon. member had not made his objection before the by-laws were brought before the Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY—They had better stand over until the next meeting.

#### RESTRICTING IMMIGRATION.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to enable the Governor in Council to restrict the immigration of Chinese into the colony and for other purposes in connection therewith." I will only briefly state to-day the object of the Ordinance. The Sanitary Board has made certain suggestions with reference to the Ordinance which I have not had the opportunity of considering in detail. I think it would be better before making any further remarks upon the Bill that those suggestions should be considered. The object of the Bill shortly is, not to prohibit immediately the immigration of Chinese, but to give power to the Governor to prohibit the immigration of any Chinese in the event of the plague prevailing or existing in any place outside the colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. Bill read a first time.

#### THE WATERWORKS ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The second item on the orders of the day is the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to further amend the Waterworks Ordinance, 1880." With regard to this Ordinance I will briefly state the object, which is in the first place to provide against the misuse and abuse of water in the Kowloon district, where, I think, the waterworks are approaching completion, and to provide that where the consumption of water exceeds the domestic quantity, in the case of persons who occupy detached or semi-detached houses on their own ground, they may have the option of having a meter attached instead of having the water cut off. The other objects of the Bill are to amend section 15 of the Ordinance of 1880, viz. the amending section 29; (2) the protective washing of clothes; (3) the consequence with the waterworks. The provision of the Bill I do not defend of the faith. The Bill will be translated "defended" second. Bill read though not protected by second.

#### THE BUILDING ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to further amend the Building Ordinance, 1889." The object of the amending Bill is to amend the law with regard to giving notices of the commencement of work and also to repeal sections 84 and 85 of the Ordinance and to substitute a new section in their stead, in order to do away with the apparent inconsistency between the two sections.

of Distribution.



The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I beg to second.  
Bill read a first time.

THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.  
The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance for regulating the licensing of private vehicles." The object of this Bill is to provide for the due regulation of traffic in the public streets in regard specially to private vehicles, and more particularly with regard to trucks, carts, and trolleys, which are daily becoming a growing nuisance. I do not intend to go into any details of the Bill to-day, but briefly to say that we must distinguish between this Ordinance and the old Ordinance 21 of 1887, which deals with public vehicles. This Ordinance deals solely and entirely with private vehicles, with the exception of private chairs and jinrickshas.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second.  
Bill read a first time.

THE POSSESSION OF DEADLY WEAPONS.  
The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I now move that the Council go into Committee on the Bill read a second time at the last meeting relating to the carriage and possession of deadly weapons.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK said that about two hours ago he received a letter addressed to him in his capacity of Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. The letter was signed by Messrs. Meyer and Co., Stollerfoht and Hagen, Arnhold, Karberg and Co., E. Schellhass and Co., Siamsson and Co., and Carlowitz and Co., and had reference to the Bill and asking for the postponement of its consideration until the next meeting. The hon. member had not had time to submit the letter to the Government or to the Chamber of Commerce, and he therefore asked for a postponement.

The consideration of the Bill was thereupon postponed.

#### PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table the report of the Sanitary Surveyor for 1894 and also the scheme for the improvement of the resumed area in Taipingshan. With regard to the scheme relating to the resumed area he moved that it be referred to the Public Works Committee.

The resolution was carried and the Council adjourned until next Thursday.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council meeting, the Colonial Secretary in the chair.

#### SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

The CHAIRMAN—The first minute is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to vote the sum of \$540, being salary of a temporary clerk to the Sanitary Department at the rate of \$60 per mensem for nine months from the 1st April, 1895. The Sanitary Board has pointed out that the work has so increased, that if it is to be overtaken it is absolutely necessary to appoint this temporary clerk. It is hoped it will not be necessary to retain his services longer than nine months and it is necessary to vote a sum sufficient to cover his salary during that period.

Vote recommended.

#### EXCHANGE COMPENSATION.

The CHAIRMAN—The next minute is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to revoke the sum of \$53,000 for payment of exchange compensation in respect of 1894. The above is approximately the unexpended balance of the sum previously voted. Hon. members will remember that at the meeting of Council held on the 28th November the hon. the senior unofficial member moved that a sum of \$80,000 be voted in respect of exchange compensation for 1894. Only part of that sum was expended last year, as all the members of the service did not accept the terms then offered to them. Members of the service have accepted the terms since offered to them and it is necessary to pass this revote to cover the amount that has to be paid in respect of last year.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—Have all the members of the service accepted it?

The CHAIRMAN—All who are entitled to exchange compensation.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I don't suppose the question has been cleared up even now. For what period have they accepted this agreement?

The CHAIRMAN—The Secretary of State has laid it down clearly that this arrangement is subject to yearly reconsideration.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—Suppose exchange goes to 1s. 6d. or to 4s., can we then reconsider it?

The CHAIRMAN—I have just informed the hon. member that the agreement is subject to reconsideration yearly and if exchange fluctuates to the extent the hon. member mentions I think it is certain it will be reconsidered.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—Yearly?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE—I understand the members of the service have all accepted the new terms, not the old terms.

The CHAIRMAN—The difference in the terms, I may mention, is this. When the vote last came before the Council the Secretary of State had made an offer that half the salary while on active service be paid at 3s. and that pay while on leave be paid at 3s. These terms, it was discovered, were not the same as had been offered to the sister service in the Straits Settlements and a large majority refused to accept them, and the matter was referred home in a memorial by the members of the service to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has reconsidered the matter and has decided the civil service of Hongkong should be given the same terms as the civil service of the Straits, that is, half pay while on active service at 3s. and leave pay at 4s. So the difference is that the former offer was for 3s. both ways and in the present case it is 3s. on half the salary while on active service and 4s. while on leave.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE—Those who accepted the first offer are not bound by it?

The CHAIRMAN—No, the present offer is made to all alike.

Revote recommended.

#### SHEEP AND SWINE DEPOT.

The CHAIRMAN—The next minute is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$600 for the salaries of the Chinese staff at the new sheep and swine depot. Hon. members are no doubt aware the sheep and swine depots have been completed; in fact they have been ready for some time, but owing to delays they have not been occupied. The Sanitary Board has been considering the matter and has now sent in a letter representing that it will be necessary to vote \$600 for the Chinese staff necessary to supervise the depots.

Vote recommended.

#### SUPREME COURT.

28th March.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

YEW LAM SHI v. LO A SAM AND ANOTHER.

This was an appeal in which the defendants were the appellants and the plaintiff respondent. Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Ewens), represented the appellants, and the respondent was represented by Mr. Sharp and Mr. Phillippo (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist).

The suit was instituted for the administration of the estate of Lin Chan, deceased, and it was in connection with the interpretation of his will that the present proceedings were brought. He died in May, 1893, in Hongkong, and left an estate mainly consisting of leasehold property in Hongkong valued at about \$66,000. The will made no definite appointment of executor or executrix, but application was made by Kwok Kwai, a concubine of deceased, and the Court granted probate to her, and reserved power to no one else. The will was dated 1st January, 1888, and probate was granted on 1st August, 1893. On 29th October of the same year Kwok Kwai died, and left a will in which she appointed the two defendants her executors. Probate of that will was granted and the present proceedings were taken to set aside the will. The case was originally tried by a jury, who found that Kwok Kwai had been married, according to Chinese fashion, to the deceased, but the plaintiff claimed that she and all other persons next of kin were entitled to participate in the distribution of the estate under the Statute of Distribution.

Judgment was reserved.

29th March.

#### IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. W. M. GOODMAN, ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.

MR. S. I. DANBY'S APPLICATION REFUSED.

The case in which Solomon Isaac Danby petitioned for an order in bankruptcy was again before the Court. The petitioner was called, but did not appear.

His Lordship—In this case the debtor filed a petition in bankruptcy, and he asked that under section 8 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance of 1891 a receiving order might be made; but I had some doubt as to whether he had substantial assets and by section 5 of the Bankruptcy Amendment Ordinance, 1892, it is provided that "it shall be lawful in the discretion of the Court to refuse the order unless satisfied that there are, or will be, substantial assets for division among the creditors." Mr. Phillippo appeared for Mr. Solomon Isaac Danby, and something was said about a promissory note, one of the assets, which, however, at the time did not appear to be a realisable asset. The case was adjourned till 22nd March to enable Mr. Danby or his counsel to show that there would be substantial assets for division among the creditors. When the case was called on the 22nd March no one appeared, but there was a letter from Mr. Danby asking to have the case adjourned on the ground of Mr. Danby's illness. I pointed out at the time that that was a very irregular course to take, merely writing a letter to the Court, and in order that Mr. Danby should have every opportunity I gave another week's grace to enable him to show that he had some assets. I sent across to Mr. Phillippo this morning and Mr. Danby does not appear again to-day, and I understand that Mr. Phillippo has received no further instructions. I therefore take it that Mr. Danby is unable or, what is the same thing, unwilling to satisfy the Court that he has any substantial assets. That being so I refuse, under section 8 of the Bankruptcy Amendment Act, to make the order asked for by the debtor's petition.

#### THE VOLUNTEERS' CHURCH PARADE AT UNION CHURCH.

On Sunday the Volunteers had the second of their Church Parades. On this occasion the Union Church was selected. It will be remembered that the first parade of this kind was held at the Cathedral and it is an indication of the hold volunteering has on the members of the Corps when we say that some 65 assembled for this the second service, which would also seem to indicate that this salutary precedent may become a regular institution. The two sections of the Corps were paraded under their respective officers and proceeded in command of Major Pemberton, R.B., to church.

The Rev. G. J. Williams preached from the text "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God," &c., Eph vi. 13. The preacher in elucidating the force of his text referred to the story of *Aeneas*, whose mother, seeing the defects in his armour, besought the aid of *Vulcan* to clothe her son with armour, remarking on the beautiful similarity between the way in which *Aeneas* examined and girt himself with helmet, sword, and shield, and comparing with this the exhortation of the text. The text suggested the three weapons of the Christian armoury, viz.—(1) the defensive weapon of faith; (2) the protective weapon of the hope of salvation; (3) the conquering weapon of the spirit. The proud legend on our English coinage "Defender of the faith" might, he continued, well be translated "defended by the faith," since although well protected by her material armaments yet the true armament of the heart of England is the shield of the Christian faith. This simile would appear also to have a deeper significance, since as the chief office of the shield is to protect the heart, so faith protects the soul. Mere culture and intellectual refinement have in all ages failed to protect against evil, since "it is a lesson of deep moral significance that just as the ancients became most polished in their refinement they became most vile in their life." This thought was further illustrated by reference to the dying *Epaminondas*'s calling for his shield. It is unbelief that is the greatest



toe to the heart of man, which without faith looses all that is truly worth possession. Dealing next with the protective helmet of salvation the preacher emphasised the distinction between the present defence from danger, afforded by the shield of faith, and the helmet of hope, which promises protection from future evils as well. Without hope we already seem to see the black carrion crows of despair hovering over life's battlefield; hope is the white winged angel that waves off the brooding vultures of despair; defended by the shield of faith and protected by the helmet of salvation we shall verily be Christian soldiers, invincible in our strength, indomitable in our purpose, invulnerable in our character—such a Christian soldier as Browning meant when he wrote the magnificent words:—

One who never turned his back but marched  
breast forward,  
Never doubted clouds would break.

Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,  
Sleep to wake.

Finally, the preacher considered the conquering sword of the spirit as the weapon of our active warfare. Each one has his Nemean Lion lurking in hiding that must be overcome. No weapon forged in the arsenals of the world is equal to the task. The sword of the Spirit of God can alone make us victors in the contest.

### THE LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

The following are the first ties in the Cricket Club Lawn Tennis Tournament:—

#### CHAMPIONSHIP.

G. Balloch	bye	Gerahom Stewart	.....
G. Lysley, R.B.	bye	P. B. Sheldon	.....
Capt. A. P. Welman	bye	G. H. Potts	.....
C. A. Tomes	bye	W. Newton	.....
K. W. Mounsey	bye	Sur.-Major Reade	bye
C. M. Firth	bye	C. W. Knox, R.B.	bye
E. J. Grist	.....	C. C. Platt	bye
F. Maitland	.....	M. C. Allenby, R.N.	bye
P. G. Anderson, H.K.E.	.....	Dr. Lawson	bye
P. Percival, R.B.	.....	A. S. Anton	bye

#### DOUBLE HANDICAP.

E. M. Gray and C. A. Tomes	owe 15	bye
E. A. Ram and Sur.-Major Reade	owe 15.3	bye
F. N. Firth and A. S. Anton	owe 15.2	bye
S. G. Bird and C. C. Platt	owe 30.2	
W. C. M. Woodcock and J. S. Ezekiel	scratch	
C. H. Harton and Ross Thomson	receive 15	
Capt. Eccles, R.B., and G. Lysley, R.B.	scratch	
F. B. Deacon and E. D. Sanders	receive 15	
E. F. Mackay and A. Sharp	scratch	
E. M. Hazeland and E. J. Mengers	receive 15	
Gerahom Stewart and Dr. Lawson	owe 15	
E. H. Humphreys and F. Collins	scratch	
E. W. Maitland and P. G. Anderson	owe 15	
C. Inchbald and S. L. Darby	receive 15	
M. A. A. Souza	receive 15.1	
C. W. Knox, R.B. and C. Percival, R.B.	owe 30	
G. A. Woodcock and J. M. G. Manuk	rec. 15	
C. W. Arnold and A. Donald	receive 15	
H. C. Nicolle and C. C. Bowring	receive 15.1	
F. Maitland and G. H. Potts	owe 30	
G. Balloch and Capt. A. P. Welman	receive 15	
P. B. Sheldon and G. W. Millward	owe 15	
H. Humphreys and J. A. Jupp	owe 15	
E. A. Measor and C. H. Gale	scratch	bye
K. W. Mounsey and E. J. Grist	owe 15	bye
C. M. Firth and W. Newton	owe 15	bye

#### "A" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

C. C. Platt	owe 30	bye
G. W. Millward	receive 15	bye
Sur.-Major Reade	owe 15.1	bye
K. W. Mounsey	scratch	bye
H. Humphreys	scratch	bye
C. W. Knox, R.B.	owe 30	bye
G. Balloch	owe 15	
G. H. Potts	owe 15.2	
E. J. Grist	owe 15	
C. Percival, R.B.	owe 15	
C. A. Tomes	scratch	
P. G. Anderson, H.K. Regt.	owe 15.2	
A. S. Anton	owe 15.3	
W. Newton	scratch	
C. M. Firth	owe 15.2	bye
F. Maitland	owe 30	bye
E. W. Maitland	owe 15	bye
P. B. Sheldon	owe 15	bye
M. C. Allenby, R.N.	owe 15.2	bye
Gerahom Stewart	owe 15.1	bye

#### "B" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

E. B. Garde, R.N.	owe 15	
F. Collins	owe 15	
E. F. Mackay	owe 30	
C. Inchbald	scratch	
S. L. Darby	owe 15	
C. W. Arnold	receive 15	
J. M. G. Manuk	scratch	
E. S. Ezekiel	owe 15	
C. F. Harton	receive 15	
C. H. Gale	owe 15.2	
E. H. Humphreys	owe 15	
P. G. Davies, R.A.	receive 15.2	

M. A. A. Souza	receive 15	
Ross Thomson	owe 15.2	
F. J. East	scratch	
E. A. Measor	owe 15	
C. C. Bowring	receive 15.1	
W. R. Stewart, R.E.	owe 15	
E. M. Hazeland	owe 15	
Capt. A. P. Welman	scratch	
A. Donald	receive 15	
J. A. Jupp	owe 15	
Wm. Macbean	owe 15	
A. H. Mancell	owe 15	
W. Low	receive 15	
J. S. Ezekiel	scratch	
G. Lysley, R.B.	owe 15	
L. Sutton	receive 15	
E. D. Sanders	scratch	
G. A. Woodcock	owe 15	
H. Grant Smith	receive 15	
F. Barrington Deacon	receive 15	

#### PROFESSION PAIRS.

E. M. Hazeland and C. H. Gale	Civil Service	bye
C. N. Buzzard, R.A. and Capt. A. P. Welman	Army	bye
R. M. Gray and C. A. Tomes	Commerce	bye
M. C. Allenby, R.N. and H. A. Gillett, R.N.	Navy	bye
Capt. Eccles, R.B. and G. Lysley, R.B.	Army	bye
Douglas Jones and S. G. Bird	Commerce	bye
E. A. Measor and G. W. Millward	Railways	bye
C. Inchbald and S. L. Darby	Bankers	
F. Maitland and C. M. Firth	Commerce	
K. W. Mounsey and E. J. Grist	Lawyers	bye
T. Sercombe Smith and E. A. Ram	Civil Service	bye
G. H. Potts and Gerahom Stewart	Brokers	bye
E. W. Maitland and P. B. Sheldon	Commerce	bye
W. C. M. Woodcock and P. G. Anderson	Army	bye
Dr. Atkinson and Sur.-Major Reade	Medical	bye
F. N. Firth and A. S. Anton	Bankers	bye
C. W. Knox, R.B. and C. Percival, R.B.	Army	bye

### HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Twenty-two members were present to compete for the short range Cup on Saturday last. The Cup was won by Major Wrottesley, the first two competitors not having entered for it. The spoons were won by Sergt. Shearing, R.B., Pte Woolridge, R.B., Major Wrottesley, Lieut. Hoey, R.B., Surg.-Major Westcott, and Mr. Gillies. The following were the best scores:—

	500 yds.	600 yds.	H'cap points.	total.
Sergt. Shearing, R.B.	29	30	4	63
Pvt. Woolridge, R.B.	28	30	4	62
Major Wrottesley	32	26	4	62
Lieut. Hoey, R.B.	34	23	4	61
Sur.-Major Westcott	29	27	5	61
N. Gillies	26	29	6	61
Private Godbear, R.B.	30	26	4	60
Cerpl. Dowsett	26	29	4	59

### REVIEWS.

*Letters from the Land of the Rising Sun.* Being a Selection from Correspondence contributed to *The Times* between the years 1886 and 1892, and reproduced with the permission of the Proprietors of that Journal. By HENRY SPENCER PALMER, F.R.A.S., Major-General, Retired List, Royal Engineers, Yokohama: Printed and Published by the Japan Mail Office.

To a graceful and flowing style the late General Palmer united the experienced scientist's keen powers of observation, a sympathetic nature, and a wide knowledge of affairs. Whatever subject he wrote upon he rendered attractive and in the *Land of the Rising Sun* he had a rich field before him. The series of letters now before us were collected in book form a few weeks before his last illness and appear here exactly as they were written, his own scheme of arrangement and plan of illustration being followed. The series is not complete, the political letters having been excluded and the descriptive alone retained, by the author's choice; but several of them have a direct connection with the history of Japan's political evolution, amongst which we may mention those on "Social Progress in Japan," "The Birthday of a Constitution," and "The Birthday of Japan's First Parliament." The book is a veritable *edition de luxe*, well printed and bound, and contains seventy-six excellent illustrations in collotype. It is in quarto size.

The first letter, "Life at a Japanese Spa," gives an account of Ikao, which will be read with interest by all who have visited that charming retreat or who contemplate doing so. Of the native society there General Palmer gives the following delightful sketch:—

"On this neutral ground you meet representatives of nearly all classes of Japanese society, from the plain shopkeeper or professional man

of the capital to the blue-blooded scions of an aristocracy so ancient that no member of it begins to think his family worthy to be called an old one until he can trace a clear descent for six or seven centuries at least. There are *Daimyos* of the old régime, Ministers and Secretaries of the new—possibly, also, a Prince or Princess of the Imperial family. There are the greater and lesser nobles of the feudal era, most of them now enrolled in the lately-created peerage; and former *samurai*, of all degrees, who mainly compose the large official class of modern Japan. Many are accompanied by their wives—those gentle, devoted, well-bred, and essentially feminine women who brighten Japanese homes, and who, you rejoice to see, are no longer disfigured as of old by blackened teeth, but can, and do, smile on you in all their native comeliness. The prevailing dress of both sexes, if it be morning, is the *yukata*, or modest cotton bathing-robe, of all hues and patterns, bound at the waist by a girdle of silk, satin, or crape. Here, however, comes a Buddhist priest, all shaven and shorn, in his silk robe and cool mantle of delicate gauze, fanning himself with holy but needless fervour. Next, a high Foreign Office dignitary, looking, as he well may do, a good deal bewildered about the Treaties, and clad in the quiet silk and crape garments of ordinary life, with the crest of his house woven in white on the back and sleeves of the uppermost one. Then, perhaps, you come upon a pair of young dandies, in all the pride of foreign clothes, stand-up collars, tight gloves, and dainty canes, and shoes. But they are a mistake here, where, excepting themselves and the foreign-style socks, shoes, and straw hats, now pretty common among the men, you have little or nothing to remind you that you are not in Old Japan. Next, oh happy contrast! a flutter of fans, a patchwork of vivid colours, a ripple of laughter, and you are face to face with a gay troop of Japanese Hebes, rosy-lipped and dark-eyed, with beautiful teeth, clear complexions, of all shades from ivory-white to nut-brown, willowy forms, finely pencilled eyebrows, and rich masses of black hair, tastefully braided and set off by some bright flower or coral ornament, with a neat binding of blue or crimson crape. Mirth, guilelessness, and—if there be anything in physiognomy—a large capacity for love, beam from the faces of these most killing Japanese belles. And their dresses are a study. While Japanese parents and adult folk generally content themselves with colours of almost Quaker-like sobriety, the nation seems to have lavished a world of artistic taste and skill on the raiment of its girls and children. Be the colours bright or dull, the patterns bold or tame, the fabrics coarse or fine, the contrasts sharp or soft, you find that in artistic arrangement, grace, and beauty, the whole effect is always charming. As for the children, they swarm; they are delightful, and they present veritable nosegays of colour. If at first they look a little old-fashioned, in costumes which as to cut are merely reproductions in miniature of those of their parents, you soon find out that in reality they are very children of children. When you know them better you also find that, with all the attractions and virtues of children, they have very few of their faults. Long before Herbert Spencer taught the Western world how children should be reared, Japanese parents had of their own motion adopted most of the very principles of training which he inculcates. The result is the Japanese child of to-day. Great changes have passed over Japan during the last thirty years. Great changes still lie before her. But, come what may, let us at least hope that in disposition, manners, grace, and dress, Japanese children and young girls may remain, essentially, as they are."

But dress at least seems bound to undergo a change, and in the letter on "Social Progress in Japan" the reason is set out. Picturesqueness and comfort have to bow to political exigency. But what, it may be asked, has political exigency to do with the native dress? With the tone of Western civilization, says General Palmer, perhaps nothing in Japan is so gravely out of harmony as the position of her women. There is abundant proof that, if women are to take that part in the great work of national regeneration to which they are entitled, and which is essential for success, their whole position in society must be radically changed. It is believed that the adoption of foreign apparel by women of the upper and middle classes would be a ser-



viceable aid to getting over the threshold of the difficulty.

"Japanese female costume is essentially suited to Japanese modes of life, and needs but little adaptation to fit it for life in the Western style. European female costume, or the other hand, is incompatible with existence *à la Japonaise*. If, then, says the Japanese reformer, our women can be induced to wear foreign attire, their husbands will be obliged to modify the dwellings they inhabit, and to adopt in a greater or less degree improved systems of domestic and even social life. Women will also be working out, in part, a change for the better in their own condition and status, and gradually raising themselves to a place in the household in their husbands' eyes, and in society, which shall fit them for coöperation in the work of Japan's advancement.

"Much that has been said here regarding the national dress of Japanese women applies equally to that of the men. . . . The idea of most Europeans, 'from noblemen to tailors,' is that an Oriental, though possibly one of God's creatures, hails from some substratum far down on the human scale, and is to be treated accordingly. That is the kind of teaching which has inclined this most patriotic of peoples towards the adoption of expedients which, without sacrificing their national individuality, may tend to make Occidentals forget the differences between them. Dress, without doubt, is an important factor in this question. As long as a Japanese wears his country's costume, it marks him conspicuously as an Oriental, and tells against him in his intercourse with foreigners. Substitute European clothing, and the contrast becomes less striking. He at once receives greater recognition and respect. Similar considerations help to account for the willingness that is already being shown by a few ladies of the upper classes to abandon their own charming and graceful apparel for habiliments which must be utterly repugnant to their artistic taste. Seeing that Japan's keenest aspiration is admittance into the circle of Christendom, we can hardly be astonished if her daughters aim at dressing themselves like the rest of the ladies of Christendom, even though the change be, as it certainly is, for its own sake, unwelcome and against the grain."

We are tempted to make many extracts from General Palmer's pages, but must refer our readers to the book itself, a perusal of which we can assure them will afford them much pleasure. In all there are twenty-six letters, treating on such various topics as the earthquakes and volcanic explosions which occurred during the author's residence in the country, the Japanese Ballet, the Shrines in Ise, Japanese Polo, Cormorant Fishing in Japan, the Flower Art of the Japanese, and the various semi-political subjects to which reference has been already made. There is one extract, however, referring to a matter of some immediate practical importance that we must give. If we are not mistaken we are likely in the immediate future to hear a good deal of the *soshi*, whose activity has been excited by the present war, and to whose influence the anti-English feeling which at present characterises a large section of the Japanese press is due. In his letter on the attempted assassination of Count Okuma General Palmer gives the following account of the *soshi*:—

"The *soshi* not only have not yet eradicated but still ardently cherish the old spirit of patriotism or loyalty—*Yamato-damashii*, as the Japanese call it—which for ages was the samurai's idol, and at whose shrine it was his highest glory to lay down his life whenever the canons of feudal practice required it, and to thereby write down his name for ever and ever in the pages of Japanese history. But *Yamato-damashii*, for all its lustre in the past, is at this day entirely out of joint with the times. Of old it found its chief expression in fealty of every kind—above all else in loyalty to the lord of the clan and in rigorous observance of the vendetta. Patriotism in its wide and true sense was hardly understood, because, as things were then, the opportunities for its exercise were so rare. Wherever, then, at the present day the old spirit survives—as it undoubtedly does among no inconsiderable section of the people of this empire—there can be little wonder that many of its more ignorant possessors are for ever groping about in sheer perplexity as to the line that their patriotism should take. The ancient shibboleths and precepts, about which there could be

neither doubt nor mistake, have been swept into the limbo of the past; and in place of them what standard has been set up? Simply, in their poor minds, a hazy, shapeless idea that they must never forget to be patriots. Of the right aim and scope of true patriotism, in their country's present circumstances, they know no more than the babes in the wood. For nine out of every ten of such folks this forlorn state of mind is, fortunately, neither painful nor ruinous; but in the breasts of morbid, brooding lads like the *soshi*, filled to bursting, as not a few of them unhappily are, with the wild notion that it behoves them to sacrifice themselves in some way, even unto death, for their country, such a blind, unformulated, and rudderless spirit of patriotism cannot but be fraught with elements of disturbance of the public peace. And politics, of course, are at this epoch alike the decoy and the goad of the misguided and turbulent fraternity. There are to-day dozens upon dozens of youths in the empire whose crazy dreams of patriotism are ever impelling them, not happily, to such brutal deeds as that of last Friday, but at least to acts and agitations of a kind which brand them, as in truth they are, the worst possible foes of their country. Unfortunately, too, as there is a *soshi* class, so there is also what may be called a *soshi* press. The writers in these vehement sheets are for ever dinning into the ears of their clients attacks on the Administration, complaints that the national honour, resources, and dignity are being sacrificed or the Constitution set at naught, fervid exhortations to every thinking Japanese to bestir himself in his country's cause—everything, in short, best calculated to work upon the feelings and passions of youthful, discontented, and desperate readers."

#### The Currency of China. (A Short Enquiry.)

By JAMES K. MORRISON. London: Eppingham Wilson. Hongkong and Shanghai: Kelly and Walsh, Limited.

Mr. MORRISON in his preface tells us that his book has been written from notes made during some years of practical experience with the money it attempts to describe and is put before the public in the hope that it may be of some practical assistance to those interested in the subject. The hope will be fulfilled, for Mr. Morrison explains the intricacies of sycee and the different taels and their exchange relation to dollars. On page 36 some figures are given as a foundation for making a table to assist the checking of Shanghai sycee and in other parts of the book calculations are worked out which will be found useful to those interested in dollar and tael exchange. The following description of sycee making is interesting:—

"The word sycee, we are told, is taken from 'Sai-sz,' meaning fine silk; the Chinese, however, call it 'Wan Yin,' meaning pure silver. Sycee as used in Shanghai is cast in ingots or shoes weighing about 50 taels Chauping weight. Smaller ingots are seldom seen there, although in other parts of China they are met with. The ingots are called shoes from a fancied resemblance to a Chinese woman's shoe. In former years old sycee was met with containing gold in sufficient quantity to make it profitable to extract it or to ship the ingots to Europe. This is seldom the case now, and never so with Shanghai sycee, which is now generally made by melting down silver bars imported from Europe and America, together with Mexican dollars (generally chopped) and other coins. The melters impress on each shoe their chop or name, and also one or two characters giving reference to some record as to date of casting, weight, and premium. After the shoes are cast they are inspected by the 'Kung Koo,' an individual who cannot be said to be appointed by or connected with the Government of China, but who is selected by the Chinese bankers and money-changers and paid for his services by a small fee of so many cash on each shoe he inspects. This personage examines the shoes, weighs, and assays them in a rough sort of way by the touchstone—if he considers such to be necessary—and when satisfied and also pleased with the 'look see' or general appearance of the shoe in the way of shape, colour, and lustre, writes on each shoe in black ink in large Chinese characters its weight and the premium it bears. This writing is done in a peculiar style, and it is said to be difficult to copy. The shoes of sycee are then ready to be put into circulation. Some

Chinese bankers put their chops in red ink on the shoes, but not always.

"The mode of assaying followed by the Chinese seems to Western ideas rough and primitive, yet the results they arrive at are, not as a rule, very far from the actual fineness of the metal."

"The 'Kung Koo's' valuation seems often to be more a confirmation of what the melters make the fineness of the sycee to be than satisfying himself by actual assay, although at times he will bore holes through the shoes or chip bits off them, and assay them by touchstone. The melter seems to work by rule of thumb; for instance, when he melts down foreign bar silver—the fineness of which he knows, as it is stamped on the bars, and taken by him in good faith—he adds a certain weight of chopped dollars—the fineness of which he also knows—bringing down the fineness of the mass of metal to what he considers it should be, or to the premium he wishes it to bear. The melter, being responsible for all time and his heirs after him, and having deadly penalties hanging over him, exercises great care, and fraud in this particular is almost unknown. The Kung Koo is also responsible, and while being careful keeps a sharp eye on the melters. So much for sycee making."

*My Diary on a Chinese Farm.* By Mrs. ARCHIBALD LITTLE. Shanghai, Hongkong, Singapore, and Yokohama: Kelly & Walsh, Limited.

WHILE living at Chungking Mr. and Mrs. Little went out to spend the hot season in a farm house amongst the hills. Mrs. Little kept a diary there, which is now published in the volume before us. It gives a very interesting picture of life on a Chinese farm, with its discomforts and its pleasures. Unfortunately while on the farm the foreigners were the victims of a robbery, which brought much misery and unhappiness on the family with which they were residing, one of the farmer's sons being locked up and tortured on a charge of being the thief. The following entry refers to this matter:—

"We are beginning to wonder whether the worrying the people round so much on the plea of our stolen goods is not in order to make them object to our going on the land we have rented near here. Directly the robbery occurred one missionary said he should not be surprised if it had been done by order of the Magistrate in order to say he could not undertake to protect foreigners outside the city walls. This seems too elaborate a plot. But that they should utilise the theft to make us disliked in the neighbourhood would only be natural. We hear no more of having our money returned us for the piece of land we rented last year and have not so far been allowed to build upon, nor of our being allowed to go on building, and the three months we were to spend at this farm in order to accustom the people to us, &c., &c., are nearly up. From the first, and all through, indeed, the country people have been only too friendly and cordial. It seems the country people were so to those two missionaries, who were murdered [the Sungpu victims]—and now they are all being tortured and ruined to make them also bring accusations against the two dead men. It makes one's blood boil to think of it; everyone who was in friendly relations with them is being persecuted, and the men from a distance who killed them—paid to do so, of course—are untouched."

Things came right, however, in the long run:—

"One day a most wretched looking, emaciated, red eyed, disfigured creature threw himself in the dust before me, and knocked his head repeatedly. I rather hurried away from him because there were the farmer and his wife, asking A. to sit down and drink wine with them to celebrate the release of their son from prison, and I wanted to congratulate them and ask how he was; then with a sudden horror realised that the wretched creature who had just knelt before me had once been the strong, hearty man who used always to call out in such loud, cheery tones: 'Is it cool enough for you, T'ai tai?' on his frequent visits to his parents' home. We felt then we could not take part in the feast of congratulation. But he is a Chinaman. And since then he seems quite to have got over his torturing in the yamen. Our things have been recovered, the thieves have been exhibited in four cages outside the farm house, and the honour of the farm family is intact once more."

The book contains a number of excellent collotypes and photo-engravings in Ogawa's best style. For the printing the Tokyo Tanki Type Foundry is responsible and they cannot



be accorded much credit for it. The latter part of the book is in different type from the first part and the proofs have been badly read.

**Stand United.** Patriotic Song. Words by W. WILKEY MARTIN. Music by ARTHUR E. GODFREY. London: Robert Cocks & Co.

THIS is the Referee prize patriotic song and is dedicated by permission to the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P. It is an anti-Home Rule song and will doubtless be popular at Primrose gatherings. The music is bright and lively and has a spirited chorus, but the words are rhodomontade. One verse runs:—

English, Irish, Scotch, and Welshmen,  
We are many, we are one!  
One by dangers dared together,  
One in union, fearing none,  
Round the globe our flag is flying,  
Shall we let old Ireland go,  
Maimed and bleeding, sever'd from us?  
No! No! Our millions answer No!

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

### REGISTRATION OF SERVANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—It may be of interest to some of your readers to know how servants are registered in Haiphong. Books about the size of a penny account book are kept for this purpose at the office of the Chief of Police. These books have one column for the date, and are ruled into about six spaces on each page. Before an employer engages a servant he sends him to the Chief of Police, who arranges to have the servant's photograph taken. This photograph is stuck inside the cover. On the first page is written the servant's name and a sufficient description to identify him. On the next page the date of application is stated, and in the top space whether "known" or "unknown" to the police, concluding with the signature of the Chief of Police. If satisfactory the servant is engaged, and the employer keeps the book in his possession until the termination of the engagement, upon which he makes a note of the date, and in one of the spaces states whether the engagement was terminated for any fault, or otherwise, and signs it. The servant must then take the book again to the Chief of Police to be certified, dated, and initialed by him. And so on after each engagement. The photographing and police work is done at Government expense. I give this for what it may be worth. Of course any registration scheme, to be of service, must be unanimously adopted and strictly carried out.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

ONE FOR HIS NOB.

Hongkong, 27th March, 1895.

### THE COOLIE STRIKE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—At the general meeting held to-day one speaker observed that the only way to meet combination on the part of the Chinese was by combination on the part of employers of labour. Let the Government issue due notice and after a certain date, say next Sunday, all Chinamen who cannot show a certificate showing their means of livelihood should be impressed by force and made to work. It is averred that the coolies are afraid to work for fear of being beaten; let them be beaten if they refuse to work. If a few influential Chinamen are impressed so much the better. The crisis in the colony must be met by bold if novel measures.—Yours obediently,

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 28th March, 1895.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The Vice-Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce at this afternoon's meeting touched the keynote of the situation when he suggested that the coolies' combination be met by foreign combination, but he seemed then to come to a stop. Why not have gone on and proposed a general lockout on the part of all the leading employers of labour in the colony. That is the only combination possible that I know of. The Dock Company's employees are already talking of going out. Why does not the foreign element take the initiative and conjointly with the Naval Yard, the Kowloon Wharf Co., the Sugar Refiners, the Rope Co., the Brick and Cement Co., the Military Authorities, and all other

larger employers give notice at once that unless the carrying coolies and stavedores return by a certain hour to their work they will all be turned into the street and their pay stopped. If the ordinary coolie and his master can abrogate their labour contracts as they are doing and call it a dead letter, surely the general employer can do the same with impunity. If the throwing out of employment of such numbers of people leads to disorder and riot the police and military will know how to take care of that, and we shall thus come to a perhaps speedier settlement than in any other way. No public spirited shareholder in any of the local companies will, I am sure, begrudge the possible small loss this radical step may entail. The coolie must be put down this time.—Yours truly,

ANTI-MOB RULE.

Hongkong, 28th March, 1895.

## HONGKONG.

The coolie strike still continues, but fortunately there are signs to-day of a speedy break-up. During the week several meetings of importance have been held to consider the position of affairs, and various suggestions have been made. On Thursday a Committee was appointed at a public meeting held in the City Hall to consider the best means to adopt to put an end to the strike. Unfortunately the "best means" the committee adopted consisted of a suggestion to the Governor that the landlord, instead of the common lodging house keeper, should be registered. The Governor was waited upon by the Committee and the suggestion was made to him; but his Excellency wisely refused to submit to it, and expressed the determination of the Government to maintain the position it had taken up. At another meeting of commercial men at the City Hall on Monday the Committee resigned, a vote of confidence in the Government was voted, and the coolies are now left to reason amongst themselves and submit to obey the present laws of the colony, or else other means will be resorted to to bring the rebellion to a close. On Thursday a meeting of the Legislative Council was held, and several bills were read for the first time. The Sanitary Board also met on the same afternoon. On Friday evening the members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders gave their final dance of the season at the City Hall. On Sunday the Volunteers' Church Parade took place.

The following provisional and temporary appointments in the Supreme Court are notified in the *Gazette*:—Mr. A. Seth to be Acting Deputy Registrar and Appraiser, Mr. R. F. Lammert to be Acting First Clerk of Court, and Mr. L. d'A. e Castro to be Acting Second Clerk of Court.

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the subscribers to the St. George's Ball was held at the City Hall, when it was decided to refund to each of the subscribers \$1.50, as there was a balance to the credit of the ball fund of \$300. If the subscribers do not choose to accept the money it will go into a fund for the next ball.

About 3 a.m. on Saturday morning a fire broke out in a dried fish shop at 352, Queen's Road Central. The outbreak occurred on the ground floor and the fire spread through the whole premises. The top floor of 354 was also damaged by fire. The shop was insured with Messrs. Siemssen and Co. for \$5,000.

The Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders gave another of their enjoyable dances, the last of the season, at the City Hall last on Friday. There was a large attendance and all the guests must have carried away with them pleasant recollections of the courtesy and hospitality of their hosts. The music was supplied by the Band of the Hongkong Regiment.

At the regular convocation of the Cathay Chapter, No. 1,165, held at Freemasons' Hall on Friday evening, M. Ex Comp. E. C. Ray, assisted by the officers of the D. G. Chapter, installed Ex Comp. G. L. Tomlin as Z., Ex Comp. P. R. Simmonds as H., and Ex Comp. S. L. Darby as J. M. Ex Comp. Tomlin then invested his officers as follows:—Scribe E. Comp. E. C. Ellis; Scribe N., Comp. H. W. Robertson; Treasurer, Comp. St. A. Baylee; Principal Sojourner, Comp. S. Hanisch; First Assistant do., G. P. Lammert; Second Assistant, Comp. A. Cumming; Janitor, Comp. J. R. Grimbale.

The notification of the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart's appointment as Colonial Secretary appears in Saturday's *Gazette*.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. F. Howell has been appointed Acting Marshal of the Admiralty Court during the absence on leave of Mr. F. A. Hazeland.

H.M.S. *Archer*, *Peacock*, and *Linnet* were recommissioned on Monday, and their paid-off crews will proceed to England by H.M.S. *Gibraltar*, which is timed to leave on the 8th inst.

The number of in-patient treated at the Alice Memorial Hospital last month was 56 and there were 1,339 out-patient visits. At the Nethersole Hospital the numbers were 23 and 47 respectively.

We hear that Surgeon-Major Westcott has been seconded from the military service for temporary employment as Officer of Health for the colony and has gone to Hainan to investigate the alleged existence of plague there.

At Saigon the other day a European named Landry, in the employ of the Customs, threw his boy, aged twenty-four, through the window of his room, on the first floor. The boy received serious injuries to his head by the fall and had to be taken to hospital. Landry was arrested.

On Wednesday morning His Excellency Lieut.-General Barker, C.B., attended by officers of his staff, held an inspection of the Hongkong Royal Artillery on the Parade Ground. Four companies, numbering about 380, were on the ground, and presented a smart and highly creditable appearance. Two companies were composed of Sikhs and two of Mohammedans.

The stock, plant, and good will of the *Hongkong Telegraph* were sold by auction on Thursday afternoon, in one lot, by Mr. J. M. Armstrong, under instructions from the Official Administrator. The bidding commenced at \$15,000 and reached \$25,100, at which the property was knocked down to Mr. S. Rustomjee, who was acting, we believe, on behalf of a syndicate.

The Volunteers Corps annual Carbine Competition was concluded on Saturday and produced among the members of the two branches a keen and healthy rivalry resulting in highly satisfactory shooting. The Corps Championship was carried off by Gunner G. P. Lammert (Maxim Gun Co.) with 93 points. The Ladies' Purse fell to Gunner E. C. Shepherd (26 points), and the first, second, and third prizes of the Ladies' nomination to Gunner Smyth, Sergeant Lowrie, and Gunner G. P. Lammert. The Officers' Cup was won by Captain McCallum of the Field Battery. A keen contest was witnessed for the Volley firing prize, which went to the Maxim Gun Company but the Field Battery tied with them on the points. Signaller Hance won the Signallers' prize and the prize for the best team shooting fell to the Field Battery.

Captain S. Reid, of the steamer *Taichow*, died at Bangkok on the 18th March. The *Siam Observer* gives the following account of the circumstances:—The *Taichow* arrived on the 18th March from Hongkong, and cast anchor off Messrs. Clarke & Co.'s, when Capt. Reid, who appeared to be in the best of health, as usual, went ashore, and, after having received his instructions, went back to the vessel and brought her up to her usual anchorage opposite Messrs. Windsor's wharf. As he passed the steamer *Devawongse* Capt. Reid was noticed waving his hand to his former comrades. About an hour after his vessel anchored Capt. Reid suddenly dropped on deck, and in a few minutes life was extinct. It has not yet been ascertained what his death was due to, but it is thought probable that it was heart disease. Capt. Reid had been in the service of the Scottish Oriental line for many years. For over two years he was chief officer of the *Devawongse*, and when Capt. Unsworth went on leave in August last Capt. Reid was promoted to the command of the vessel. He retained command of the vessel till December, when Capt. Perkes, of the *Tacoma*, who was the senior to Capt. Reid, was transferred to the *Devawongse*. Capt. Reid then made a few trips in the *Phra Chom Klao* as chief officer, and stopped ashore in Hongkong awaiting orders. He eventually took command of the *Taichow*, and the present trip was his maiden one. Capt. Reid was a man of very temperate habits, was well known in shipping circles, and was much liked and respected by those who knew him. The vessels in the river floated their ensigns at half mast in respect for the deceased.



**HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.**

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held Thursday afternoon. There were present Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, in the chair; Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works; Dr. P. B. C. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon; Hon. Ho Kai, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Dr. Hartigan, Mr. R. K. Leigh, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

**THE DRAINAGE.**

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS moved a series of resolutions regulating the duties of the Assistant Sanitary Surveyor and dealing with certain matters of detail in connection with drainage.

After some discussion the resolutions were adopted with slight amendments.

**THE BY-LAWS UNDER THE INSANITARY DWELLINGS ORDINANCE.**

A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary stating that the by-laws made by the Board under Section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 had been approved by the Legislative Council with the exception of clause 31. [The clause in question gave the Board power to close houses certified as unfit for human habitation, even although cleaned and disinfected.]

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said the senior unofficial member of Council had seen him with reference to this by-law and had pointed out that as it stood now the general impression would be that the Board might close houses and keep them closed for any length of time, which would be prejudicial to property. If the by-law could be so read it was far from the intention of the Board. He would therefore propose the insertion of the words "during the prevalence of such epidemic or for such less period," etc. The senior unofficial member said that would quite meet the difficulty he had pointed out, and personally he (Mr. Cooper) did not see any objection to it.

Hon. HO KAI seconded.

Mr. FRANCIS said he did not think the by-law would be sufficient with the proposed amendment and he suggested the addition of the words "But in no case shall such premises be reoccupied until they comply in every respect with the provisions of the Ordinances and by-laws made thereunder."

This suggestion was accepted by the Director of Public Works and the motion for the amendment of the by-law was put and carried.

Mr. FRANCIS moved that application be made to the Government to have the by-laws translated into Chinese and widely circulated.

Dr. HARTIGAN seconded.

Carried.

**IMPERMEABLE FLOORS.**

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said a great many applications had been received by his department for concreting floors. Under his instructions these had been forwarded to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board for his information and he would like to know if any steps were being taken for exercising supervision over the work.

The CHAIRMAN said this matter had received his attention. There was as yet no provision for supervision and he would move that the Board do apply to the Government for the services of some non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers to do this work. If they could get such men they would suit the purpose. They had many of them working under the Permanent Committee during the plague. Without some extra assistance he did not see how the work could be carried out.

Mr. FRANCIS seconded.

The motion was carried and it was decided that the number of men to be applied for should be three.

**HEALTH OFFICER OR SANITARY SUPERINTENDENT.**

Some discussion took place with reference to a letter received from the Colonial Secretary in reply to the recommendation of the Board that the offices of Secretary of the Board and Sanitary Superintendent should be separated and a new appointment be made for the latter office. The Colonial Secretary's letter made mention of the prospective appointment of an Officer of Health. It was ultimately decided that the Government should be informed that if a Health Officer was going to be appointed a chief inspector of nuisances with an extra inspector would be sufficient for the duties it had been in contemplation to assign to the Sanitary Superintendent, that in

any case the Board would like to have an extra inspector in order that the chief inspector might devote his time to supervision of the other inspectors instead of having a district of his own to attend to, and that if no Health Officer was about to be appointed soon the Board would like to have the question of the appointment of a Sanitary Superintendent referred back to them.

**THE SANITARY SURVEYOR.**

An application from the Sanitary Surveyor to be relieved of certain work and asking for additional assistance was considered.

After some discussion as to the duties of the Sanitary Surveyor and Assistant Surveyor, in the course of which reference was made to the fact of the Sanitary Surveyor being attached to the Public Works Department and the Water Department, it was resolved that Mr. Crook's proposal be adopted as a temporary measure and that the strongest representations be made to the Government as to the appointment of a Sanitary Surveyor whose services should be placed entirely at the disposal of the Board.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS recorded his vote against the motion, which was carried as an amendment to a proposal of his own.

**THE CAUSEWAY BAY SQUATTERS.**

Amongst other routine work that came before the Board were a number of applications to keep swine on Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s land at Causeway Bay. It will be remembered that some time ago attention was called to the insanitary condition of the squatter's village at Causeway Bay. Most of the squatters have since been removed, but it appears there are still some remaining and applications have been made by them for licences to keep swine.

Mr. FRANCIS said that if Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. thought fit to allow squatters to live on their ground those people, so far as the Board was concerned, had a right to keep pigs if they put up suitable sties. If it were proved that they were unlicensed squatters and had no land on which they could properly put up a sty, then they should not be licensed, but otherwise any man was entitled to a licence from the Board when the place was fit to keep swine in, and if the landlord objected to the keeping of swine he could turn the squatters off.

The CHAIRMAN said they had told Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. to remove the squatters. Mr. FRANCIS said that with all respect he did not think the Board had ordered Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. to remove the squatters. They ordered them to remove certain insanitary dwellings, but if they liked to have squatters then they were at liberty to have them if the dwellings were in a sanitary condition.

It was resolved that before the licences in question were granted Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. should be asked if the applicants were entitled to use the land.

**RESTRICTION OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION FROM INFECTED PLACES.**

A draft Bill which had been introduced in Council for the restriction of Chinese immigration from places where epidemic disease prevailed was considered and certain amendments suggested by Mr. Francis were adopted and recommended to the Government.

**CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.**

On Thursday, at noon, the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the China Sugar Refining Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the General Agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. The Hon. J. J. Keswick presided, and there were also present—Hon. E. R. Bellios, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, D. R. Sassoon, St. C. Michaelson (Consulting Committee), J. J. Bell-Irving, R. C. Wilcox, W. A. Cruickshank, K. McK. Ross, C. S. Taylor, A. Tillett, G. Murray Bain, D. Landale, Geo. Fenwick, Ho Tung, Ho Fook, and J. Barton (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission we will, as customary, take the report and accounts which have been in your hands some days, as read. The course of business during last year was marked by incidents happily uncommon and, taken altogether, unparalleled in the history of the Company. During the earlier spring months the output at the works was curtailed owing to an insufficient supply of water caused by the exceptionally dry weather, which lasted into the month of May and seriously interfered with busi-

ness. No sooner had rain fallen and a supply of water been obtained than the outbreak of the plague caused a temporary stoppage of the Refinery, owing to a strike among the coolies, who refused to work. Following upon this came the China and Japan war, which immediately caused a cessation in the demand for sugar in the northern markets of the former country, and to a lesser extent in Japan also. In the meantime the prospects of a large increase in the production of beet sugar had begun to tell upon the market, and the price fell heavily during the early autumn months, until a level was reached absolutely unknown before in the history of the industry. The consequence of this was a corresponding fall in sugar everywhere, which has rendered shipments to most of our outlying consuming markets during the past few months unprofitable, and it is difficult to make a forecast of the result of our operations so long as the present hostilities continue. Under these circumstances I hope you will agree with me that the results of the year's operations, as disclosed by the accounts laid before you, though not so good as we could wish, are nevertheless not unsatisfactory considering the difficulties under which the business of the Company has been carried on. Our trade is inherently of a somewhat fluctuating nature, and we cannot always expect to see results such as those of the year 1893. I think, however, that the result of the year's working should teach us the expediency of being moderate in our distribution of profits in exceptionally good times, in order that we may have something to fall back upon in times not so prosperous. I am happy to say that one of the difficulties with which we had to contend during the earlier part of last year is likely to disappear in future, as we have obtained a suitable site for a reservoir at a moderate cost, and when this is completed the dry weather supply of water should be sufficient for all our needs. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I have pleasure in acknowledging the zeal and assiduity displayed by the Company's staff at the various establishments, especially during the time of the plague, when much extra work was thrown upon the Europeans employed at the Refinery. (Applause.) I had hoped that no exceptional calls would soon be again made upon their services, but I regret to say that the present labour strike is causing us great trouble and loss, and it is quite impossible, apparently, to form any idea how long it may last. The daily loss to the colony must be enormous, and it is to be hoped some means will be devised for preventing the recurrence of such incidents. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be very glad to answer any questions which any shareholder may wish to address to me.

The CHAIRMAN—As there are no questions, gentlemen, I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented to this meeting be adopted and passed.

Mr. WILCOX—I have very much pleasure in seconding that.

Carried.

On the motion of Mr. G. FENWICK, seconded by Mr. CRICKSHANK, Messrs. Thomas Arnold and F. A. Henderson were appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Mr. TAYLOR, seconded by Mr. BELL-IRVING, and carried, that the Hon. E. R. Bellios, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, D. R. Sassoon, A. G. Wood, and St. C. Michaelson be re-elected as the Consulting Committee.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that concludes the business of the meeting. The dividend warrants will be issued to-morrow. I am much obliged to you for your attendance.

**LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.**

The thirteenth ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders of the Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited, was held on Thursday afternoon at the offices of the General Agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. The Hon. J. J. Keswick presided, and there were also present—Messrs. D. Gillies (a member of the Consulting Committee), Hon. E. R. Bellios, Messrs. J. H. Cox, C. S. Sharp, K. McK. Ross, C. S. Taylor, W. A. Cruickshank, Ho Tung, and J. Barton (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission we will, as usual, take the report,



which has been in your hands some days, as read. When addressing you last year I mentioned that I hoped the accounts of this year would be more satisfactory than those we were then able to present to you, and that indications in this direction were not altogether wanting. I am happy to say that our hopes have not been misplaced and that the results of the working show a distinct improvement on those of the three preceding years. The demand for Spain, which, as you are aware, is our chief consuming market, continued steady at fairly remunerative prices during the year, and I am happy to say that it has continued into this year. I do not know that there is anything that I can usefully add to these remarks, but before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I readily record the appreciation felt by the Consulting Committee and the General Agents of the efforts made by the Manila agents and staff on behalf of the Company. I shall be glad to answer any questions that shareholders may wish to ask before I move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—Mr. Chairman, would you kindly inform me whether or not the accounts have been audited in Manila; if not I believe they should be so audited, because all the vouchers and facilities are in Manila.

The CHAIRMAN—The accounts are audited in Hongkong, as you are aware, but the system followed is this: the Manila agents send over a complete journal certified as correct by themselves. From that journal we write up a ledger, which consequently becomes practically a copy of the Manila ledger. The vouchers are, of course, in Manila, but it is not considered necessary to have them here for the purpose of audit, which we supposed that the possession of the journal rendered unnecessary. The Manila agents' attention, however, will be called to the question addressed to me by Mr. Belilios, and the matter will receive attention.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that a certificate of that kind should be signed by an independent gentleman or an accountant. If we have not got such an accountant an independent certificate might be sent down from Manila.

The CHAIRMAN—If it is the wish of shareholders the Manila agents will be asked to have the sugar stocks verified, and the certificate sent over of what the stocks are, and any information that may meet the views of shareholders as expressed by Mr. Belilios.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—Do you wish me to formulate these views in a resolution?

The CHAIRMAN—If you so desire it, but I should think the Manila agents will be too glad to meet the views of the shareholders, and I do not think it will be necessary to put your views in the form of a resolution. I am quite sure that the Manila agents will read the account of this meeting and the enquiry made by yourself, and they will be very pleased to meet the wishes of the shareholders in every respect.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am perfectly satisfied. I have now very much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report.

Carried.

It was proposed by Mr. SHARP and seconded by Mr. TAYLOR that Mr. D. Gillies and Mr. J. H. Lewis be re-elected the Consulting Committee.

Carried.

Mr. COX proposed the re-election of Mr. Thomas Arnold as auditor for the Company. Mr. CRICKSHANK seconded the motion, which was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen, and I am much obliged to you for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

#### THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Manager for February—

Mining—August Shaft 200 feet level.—The No. 1 crosscut has connected with the south drive on the course of the north and south reef. Distance driven 10 feet 6 inches. Total length 62 feet.

The No. 2 crosscut is still in good looking country and letting out water very freely. Distance driven 35 feet. Total length from No. 1 crosscut 203 feet.

The south drive on the course of the north

and south reef has been driven 10 feet 6 inches on a strong body of ore, but I regret to say this point does not show any signs of improvement. Total length from No. 2 East crosscut 104 feet.

Intermediate (140 feet) level.—The No. 1 crosscut has been extended a further distance of 38 feet and has intersected the leader referred to in my report for January. The ore where passed through, although promising looking, is not payable. Total length of this crosscut from August shaft is 183 feet.

The south drive on the course of the reef has been extended 19 feet 6 inches, the ore passed through being of medium quality. This point is now under the winze being sunk below the 110 feet level and will be discontinued till the connection is made and better ventilation secured.

The east crosscut at this level has been driven a further distance of 9 feet, and as it did not show anything of value, work there was stopped in the early part of the month. Total length of this crosscut is 69 feet.

The drive on Phillips' leader has been extended 31 feet 6 inches on ore of low grade. Total length of drive is 63 feet 6 inches. Stopping on this leader has been carried on on ore slightly better than that obtained in driving. I look for further improvement as the stopes are carried south.

110 Foot Level.—The south-east crosscut at this level has been further extended 19 feet, and is now in dyke country. It has passed through the true course of the north and south reef, and consequently work there has been discontinued for the present. Total length 257 feet 6 inches.

The winze on the course of the north and south reef has been sunk 10 feet through rather broken reef matter; the ore, however, is fit for the mill.

The crosscut to go out to the Mill Gully reef has been driven 9 feet, but owing to its having reached a rather heavy body of water I have discontinued the work there till it becomes drained. A winze in the bottom of this crosscut has now been commenced to go down on the course of the No. 4 leader.

Upper Stopes.—These continue to give large quantities of fair grade ore for the mill, but I need not remind you here that our reserves at this point are becoming very small.

Mill Gully Tunnel.—This point has again received special attention, and fair progress been made. The south drive on the course of the reef has been extended 24 feet through old workings and blocks of reef left by the old workers. The ore obtained although poor has paid the mill, and this applies to the stopes over this drive. Ore mined and milled from this point is 148 tons. The north drive has been extended 69 feet, and is now in 124 feet from the main tunnel; there is no change to report here. I am offering special inducements for progress, so as to get up under the Kladi tunnel as quickly as possible. We have about 220 feet further to go, but I think we shall accomplish this in two months.

Kladi Tunnel.—Two winzes to go down on the course of the ore passed through when driving this tunnel some months ago, have been commenced, and I am pleased to say the No. 1 winze shows very encouraging prospects. The reef here, although only a few inches wide in places where first seen, has now opened out to fully two feet, and is of very fair quality indeed. After our disappointment at Mill Gully I do not care, however, to say very much just yet. We are now down 35 feet below the floor of the tunnel, or 80 feet from surface, and have carried good payable ore almost the entire depth of the winze, and this point never looked better than it does to-day. The No. 2 winze will junction with the No. 1 at above the level of the Mill Gully tunnel.

The No. 1 North Kladi tunnel has been driven a further distance of 87 feet 6 inches, making its entire length 185 feet from its mouth; and as it does not show any signs of the reef I have discontinued work there till we see further development at the Mill Gully and Kladi tunnel.

I may remark here that many small drives and winzes have been made in carrying on the work, which can hardly find a place in a report.

The total ground driven and sunk for the month is 700 feet 9 inches, and the number of tons mined is 860, of which about 700 tons were got by stopping in the upper stopes, 140 feet level, and Mill Gully tunnel.

Milling.—This was carried on during 28 days, or allowing for lost time consequent on bad shoes and repairs 24 days with full battery, crushing 1,000 tons of ore from the mine (no "headings" have been crushed this month) for 457 ounces 7 dwts of melted gold.

Cyanide Works.—The erection of these is being pushed on with all possible speed. Already four of the vats are put together and in position, and another month will see this work well advanced.

The water-wheel is in position and will be fit for duty by the time the other portions of the work are completed.

General.—All work coming under this head has had the usual attention. The Manick road is being extended some hundreds of yards to enable us to get at new ground for firewood and other timber during the dry weather and before the next monsoon sets in.

Labour.—This is without change.

Health.—Is fairly good.

#### THE STRAITS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, was held at Singapore on the 21st March, when the report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN, Mr. T. Bogaardt, in the course of his speech, said—I would willingly avoid reference to the agitation originated in London with objects other than to serve shareholders' interests, and which has been carried on in Shanghai with a view to the liquidation of the Company, but it may be as well that shareholders should have the issue plainly put before them. These agitators tell you that the intrinsic value of your shares is greater than the market value. Has it taken all these years to discover this? If they had attended our meetings, or read our reports, or studied our balance sheets, the discovery would have been made long ago. Are there many solvent dividend-earning companies of which the same cannot be said? I think not, and, much nearer Shanghai than we are, there are companies as to whose shares the discrepancy between the market value and the intrinsic value is from five to ten times as great as in this Company. The only other reason for their action put forward by the agitators is the statement that they have no confidence in the directors and no confidence in the management of the Company. Now the best answer to this gratuitous opinion is the statistical statement on the back of the report. In a colony such as this there must be frequent changes in the directorate, but there are directors now on the Board who have been members for several years. The executive management has been in the hands of the same gentleman for three years past (practically for four years past) and the results are before you. I beg to move that the report and balance sheet as printed be approved and a dividend of 10 per cent. to shareholders be declared. Before formally putting the motion to the meeting I shall be glad to answer any questions and to give any further information which may be asked in regard to the accounts.

#### THE YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the fifth ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the Association, No. 26, the Bund, Shanghai, on Monday, the 8th April:—

The directors have now the pleasure to submit to the shareholders the annual report and audited statement of accounts and balance sheet to the 31st December, 1894.

##### WORKING ACCOUNT, 1893, AND FORMER YEARS.

This account shows a balance of \$120,694.18 at credit. As it is running off so satisfactorily, the directors recommend the payment of a special dividend to shareholders of 5 per cent. (= \$3 per share), thus absorbing \$30,844, leaving a balance of \$89,750.18 to be carried forward.

##### WORKING ACCOUNT, 1894.

The net premium earned, after deducting re-insurances, returns, &c., amount to \$401,621.45. The business done by the Association's head office and principal eastern agencies has continued to increase steadily, the result being a balance of \$326,695.92 at credit of working account, 1894. The above results



are, in the opinion of the directors, very satisfactory. The directors recommend that the balance of \$338,695.22 should be appropriated as follows, viz.:

A dividend of 10 per cent. (= \$6 share) to shareholders .....	\$41,688.00
To reserve fund .....	40,000.00
Balance to be carried forward .....	247,007.22
	<u>\$328,695.22</u>

Claims paid, less re-insurances, during the year amount to \$47,266.26, and the claims paid since the 31st December last and estimated as pending on all known losses and casualties amount to about \$115,000.

## RESERVE FUND.

The business of the Association having again increased considerably, the directors deem it advisable to further increase the reserve fund. After adding \$30,000 as recommended above it will amount to \$350,000.

## EXCHANGE AND INVESTMENT FLUCTUATION.

This account has been increased by \$46,169.19 and now amounts to \$62,300.30.

Sterling exchange has been taken at 2s. 5½d. per taol (the demand rate on 31st December, 1894), and the relative value between dollars and taols at 73.

## INVESTMENT.

The value on the 31st December last has been taken for all the investments.

## DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the articles of association the present directors all retire from office, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

## AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Augustus White, who offers himself for re-election.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

W. S. JACKSON, Secretary.

Shanghai, 31st March, 1895.

## WORKING ACCOUNT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1894.

Dr.	\$ c.
To net premia, less re-insurances, &c. ....	401,621.45
To interest account .....	48,847.53
To transfer fees account .....	77.00
To profit realized on sales of securities .....	233.24
	<u>\$450,779.27</u>

Cr.	\$ c.
By claims paid, less re-insurances, &c. ....	47,266.26
By agency commissions .....	15,152.42
By head office and general charges .....	21,530.16
By London charges .....	21,688.92
By Hongkong charges .....	4,427.58
By agency charges .....	7,161.37
By directors', committees', and auditors' fees .....	4,857.34
By balance .....	328,695.22
	<u>\$450,779.27</u>

## WORKING ACCOUNT, 1893, AND FORMER YEARS.

Dr.	\$ c.
To balance of working account, 1893, from last account .....	245,562.47
To balance of working account, 1892, from last account .....	45,160.26
To balance of working account, former years, from last account .....	6,160.00
	<u>\$296,882.73</u>

Cr.	\$ c.
By amount transferred to reserve fund .....	30,000.00
By amount transferred to exchange and investment fluctuation account .....	16,131.11
By claims paid, account 1893, less re-insurances, &c. ....	60,276.55
By re-insurance premia and premia returned, &c., account 1893 .....	16,068.30
By sundry charges, account 1893 .....	5,913.94
By amounts written off for bad debts .....	3,121.37
By dividend—\$6 per share on 6,943 shares .....	41,688.00
By claims paid, account former years, less re-insurances, &c. ....	2,406.51
By sundry charges, account former years .....	632.47
By balance .....	120,594.18
	<u>\$296,882.73</u>

## BALANCE SHEET ON 31st DECEMBER, 1894.

Dr.	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital .....	8,000 shares	
Less unallotted 1,052 shares .....		
	6,943 shares of \$100 ea.	
upon which the sum of \$60 per share has been called and paid up .....		416,880.00
Reserve fund .....		310,000.00
Exchange and investment fluctuation account .....		62,300.30
Working account, 1894 .....		328,695.22
Working account, 1893 and former years .....		120,594.18
Uncollected dividends and bonus .....		2,734.71
		<u>\$1,241,204.41</u>

Cr.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Midland Railway Co. consolidated 4 per cent. perpetual preference stock, £10,792 .....		100,593.42
Great Northern Railway Co. consolidated 4 per cent. perpetual preference stock, £2,115 .....		21,477.76
London and North Western Railway Co. consolidated 4 per cent. preference stock, £3,550 .....		36,050.14
Great Western Railway Co. 4 per cent. debenture stock, £1,812.10 .....		18,405.83
Great Western Railway Co. 4½ per cent. debenture stock, £3,040 .....		30,571.11
India 3½ per cent. stock, 1931, £2,085.15.9 .....		20,978.01
Chinese Imperial Government E loan of 1896 .....		88,356.16
Mortgages on real estate at Shanghai .....		182,876.71
Cash at Bankers on fixed deposit .....		333,446.08
Cash at Bankers on current account .....		119,731.49
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Limited, 6 per cent. debentures .....		34,246.58
Shanghai Municipal 5 per cent. debentures of 1892 .....		26,164.33
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. 6 per cent. debentures .....		30,136.99
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd., shares .....		37,746.57
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. shares .....		15,924.66
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., shares .....		46,068.75
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., shares .....		1,275.00
North-China Insurance Co., Ltd., share .....		273.98
Policy stamps at agencies .....		484.17
Head office and London furniture .....		2,370.94
Due by agencies, premia in course of collection, and sundry outstandings .....		108,827.43
		<u>\$1,241,204.41</u>

## FOOTBALL.

## HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB v. C COMPANY, R.B.

On Friday afternoon these two teams met at the Happy Valley and a close contest resulted. Kicking off, the Company had at first to play on the defensive, as their opponents went off with a rush, which was not at all easy to repress. Mackay on the right and Shelford on the left gave most trouble, both players being very successful in evading all attempts to stop their progress. Thus it seemed that the Club would not have a difficult task in carrying off the honours, but after a few minutes the Military pulled themselves together and gave a really good exhibition. From a good pass over Mackay took the ball to the line, where his adversary kicked behind. Thomson took the kick and placing it in a beautiful position the ball had to kick it anywhere to get out of danger, and at length it fell to Shelford, who sent it under the bar by a crack shot. The kick-off sent the Army forwards well up the field and an opportunity for shooting occurred, but the ball was sent too wildly to do any mischief. Then another attempt was made to lower the Club's flag, and although Sharp successfully kicked out the first time the ball fell a short distance on the wing and was returned right in front of goal, where one of the Company's forwards shot it into the net from off the side of his head. Another attempt was made a few seconds afterwards, but when dangerously near Ezekiel sent the ball out of danger in a commendable manner. Crossing over, neither side had the advantage, and the struggle for victory, which had been keen before, now reached a climax, and the defence of each side was severely taxed. The Military forwards were now passing with great skill, and had it not been for excellent tackling they would have given Sharp a great deal of anxiety. The ball in one of these attacks fell to Davies when in the goal mouth; Sharp kicked out from behind him, but the ball was then sent past into the net, he being somewhat impeded by friend and foe while in his saving capacity. Ezekiel and Ross Thomson played a splendid game and stopped many attempts at increasing the score. The Brigade were now leading by a point and the Club soon made desperate efforts to retrieve. A good attack was made and the soldier's custodian had to use his hands. The ball however fell to Kow, who, aiming at the goal from a distance of more than twenty yards, sent it just under the bar, the wind materially assisting it in its progress. Again, after recommending, a corner fell to the Club, from which an exciting scene was witnessed, the leather falling right in front of goal. A great heap of players came together and for several seconds it seemed that the Club must push the ball in the right direction, but ultimately it was sent out of danger.

A good shot by Pratt was very nearly adding to the score, but it went just outside. Thus, for the remainder of the game, the contest waged to and fro, and when time was called the match had ended in a draw, each team scoring two goals.

The Hongkong Football Club will wind up the season by the annual dinner on Tuesday, April 9th. A large number of members have already signified their intention to be present.

## THE COOLIE STRIKE.

## PUBLIC MEETING IN THE CITY HALL.

On Thursday afternoon a public meeting convened by the Chamber of Commerce was held at the City Hall to consider the crisis caused by the coolie strike. The room was crowded. The Hon. J. J. Keewick was unanimously voted to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN—As you have seen from the notice, this is a meeting called by request of those who are interested in the employment of labour in the colony. It is not, I assume, the wish of any gentleman here present either by word or act to say or do to be done anything which will in any respect weaken the hands of the Government as against the strong combination on the part of the labourers which is now taking place. (Applause). There can be no question that it is an exceedingly grave occurrence which is at the present time taking place, as it is impossible to say how it may end, and the daily losses are extensive. I think that every one who may address the meeting will be anxious to make suggestions as to what steps should be taken to provide labour in the face of the position of the labourers properly belonging to the colony. I therefore hope that all speakers will moderate, as far as possible, their remarks in order to strengthen the hands of the Government and weaken the hands of the combination. (Applause). I may remark that it is a singular thing that these labourers who are now on strike are absolutely unaware of why they have taken this stand. As a matter of fact they have been misled entirely by the head men and other persons who are on strike without the smallest knowledge of what they want.

Mr. E. MACKINTOSH—There is no doubt that the present occasion is a very grave one in the history of the colony; I may say, as far as the money-making interests are concerned, far graver than the plague we passed through last year. The combination that we have to meet and which some consider is weak is, I am afraid, particularly strong. These men have really no grievance. If they are properly tackled, if they are examined as to the various causes which caused them to knock off work, they will be found to have absolutely no answer. But there is at the back of these men the guilds. These are the people—the strings—that are working the whole concern, and as long as we have guilds in this colony which are not supervised or in any way regulated by the Government we shall have a recurrence of these disasters. (Applause). I am not prepared to censure the Government. The Government's proposition is a reasonable one, and is for the benefit of the coolies themselves. But the Government had not grasped the subject. I am not speaking of the unofficial members of the Council—and I do not say they are wrong. I think they were right from a philanthropic point, as the coolies are huddled and crowded together in a most shameful fashion in their dwellings. But they have been accustomed to this for years, and I do not think the colony is worse off in its overcrowding than it was 20 years ago. I do not want to hinder the Government, but I want to see how we are going to cope with the difficulty. We are in a trouble now which will shake the foundations of the colony unless it is met. There is only one way of meeting this combination, and that is by combination. Are you prepared to combine against this Chinese combination or are you not? It must not be a half-hearted combination, which you may stick to to-day and throw away to-morrow. It must permeate the whole colony. Unless you do that you had far better retire from the struggle. (Applause). Unless we take steps to combat this evil—steps that shall be powerful enough to break once for all this series of strikes which the colony has been subjected to during the last ten or twenty years—we may as well give up our profession here. (Applause).



Mr. D. GILLIES—I have listened with very great interest to the remarks that have fallen from the Chairman and Mr. Mackintosh. There can be no question that this is a very serious time that the colony is passing through at present, but whether the line of procedure that has just been given to us by Mr. Mackintosh is a proper one is questionable. It is perhaps better that we should look a little further into the matter, and see whether or not we are able to arrive at some settlement with the Chinese. There has been no effort to come to some arrangement with the men on strike. No doubt they have an idea that the Government wish to increase the revenue by taxing them, by putting on them a poll tax, and by taxing them in various other ways, and I think if these matters were properly explained to the Chinese and their wishes obtained as to what they would like, we should arrive at some satisfactory settlement. To-day I had a conversation with several of the head men who were at the docks, and so far as they are concerned they have no grievance, but they say they are afraid of the coolies in Hongkong, and if they continue to work their lives may be in danger. There is no doubt that they wish to help the people in Hongkong, but at the same time they do not wish to lose their employment at the docks. I questioned them as far as I could to find out what it was they would like the Company to do in order that they might not go out on strike. They said they had no grievance and nothing they wished to receive from the Company. They are on a different footing from the coolies in Hongkong, as the Lodging House Act does not affect them, as the docks are not in Hongkong, so they did not feel the provisions so acutely as the coolies in this place. I would suggest for the consideration of this meeting that a committee be appointed to meet a representative Committee appointed by the Chinese and see what the grievance is, and if it cannot be righted, I think the Chinese are not unreasonable. In many cases they are stupid and ignorant, but when the true facts of the case are laid before them I have no doubt they will willingly accept some little advice and do what is wanted. (Applause).

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY.—I must ask the meeting in the first place to accept my remarks with a certain amount of allowance. I am in an official position, but as this is a public meeting I have taken the opportunity of appearing at it, because this is a matter in which it might be considered—and I think rightly in my opinion—that I might have some interest, and I have a very great interest in it. I did not happen to be here when the meeting opened, but I heard a few remarks that were passed, and the conclusion I came to was that in the opinion of the speaker the Government was at fault. Well, as I commenced by saying, I have no business to be here in an official capacity, and it may be that I shall have to answer to my superiors for having the audacity to address this meeting at all; but I hope that those who are here will understand that I beg them to allow me to address them in an unofficial capacity—if I can be in the colony in an unofficial capacity. (Applause). There is no question that the position of affairs in the colony must be a very grave one, but I think it is hardly fair that by-issues should be brought into the question as to what the idea of the Government is in attempting to enforce the law relating to the licensing of lodging houses. I do not think that has anything to do with the question. We are all agreed the coolies have no real grievance. There is something below this. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I say the people we wish to get hold of are the influential Chinamen of whom we have heard a good deal. But when the time comes when they can be of some practical assistance to the Government, where are they. (Hear, hear, and applause). Business men in this place know far more about the matter than I do, but I would say, make a suggestion to the Government. No suggestion has been made at this meeting that I know of, and if you will permit me I suggest that there should be an importation of coolies—coolies who could come down here—and why not get 1,000 or 2,000—whatever number might be required—and ask the Government to find accommodation and protection for them whilst they are here. Half the number that came down here could be taken from ship to ship by those who have ships constantly in use, and the remainder might be housed by arrangement, and allowed out by the Government. It is no good sitting down and

saying "Oh, the Government are a poor lot." (Laughter). Well, perhaps they are, but give them some practical suggestion. Practical men, practical suggestion. Let us go to the Government and hear what they have to say about it.

Mr. DONWELL—I am glad to hear what Captain Rumsey has brought our attention to. The Government can do more than we as individuals. As Mr. Mackintosh said, we must have a strong combination to meet a strong combination. If the Government can be persuaded to import labour, those who are employers of labour will be expected to guarantee to take their labour from the Government at certain fixed rates. But if this strike is affecting the colony surely it is the colony that should pay for it and not individuals. Most of us are agents only and not principals. We are working for other people, and for other people's ships, and very few of us for our own property, and I think the loss which would otherwise fall on us individually should really fall on the colony. The coolies are not working our ships or carrying our cargo and this will be a great loss to the colony. Shipowners will avoid the place, and therefore we must do everything we can to get coolies to take the place of the coolies now on strike. There are many places from which coolies can be got, but the trouble is there would be great delay. We want to get them quickly. The strike has been on four days now and it would certainly be a week or ten days before we could get relief from any other parts. My own opinion is that Japan is the best place to apply to for immediate help. I know there are many difficulties in the way, especially at the present time, but it seems to me that to bring Chinese here would only be putting off the evil day. If we bring Japanese here the Chinese will see that we can do without them. As to what should be done to prevent a recurrence of this, I do not advocate Japanese labour being here permanently, but I think Indian labour would be very useful here. It would be of very great service to the colony to have two or three thousand Indian labourers here should we at any time be involved in war. We know in that case the Chinese would not help us, but the Indians would be of vital assistance to our army and navy. The question now is whether all the employers of labour would be prepared to promise that the whole of the labour they required should be taken from the Government importations. If there was a guarantee given to the Government surely they might then telegraph for labour. I believe that if the Chinese know that the Government is telegraphing for labour you will very soon see a different state of affairs. (Applause).

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP—I think we are very much indebted to the Government, to the military, and to the police for the measures they have taken at this crisis. There is no doubt whatever that it was the best thing that could possibly be done, and it has been very well done. The fall in the temperature of 10 degrees within the last 24 hours has been greatly in our favour. Europeans can work at 65 degrees Fahrenheit; at 75, at which the temperature was the day before yesterday, they found it very laborious work. At 85 it will be simply impossible to work. Europeans cannot do physical work in the summer in Hongkong, and therefore, however satisfactory the present position may be, it cannot be permanent. In England strikes continue. There is no law against strikes. I think our condition in Hongkong is a little different. The Chinese labourers here do not belong to the British nationality. They are here by invitation and by favour, and therefore I think there might be some slight difference in the way offences are regarded. The offence of striking might be treated in Hongkong differently from striking in London. But in England, at any rate, the Government has set its foot most firmly upon the subject of intimidation and violence, and if the position had been fully realised on Saturday when the coolie was caught red-handed in the violent treatment of another coolie, when he struck and knocked his baskets off his shoulder, and threw the bamboo into the sea, I think the case might have been treated differently from what it was. I regard, sir, the punishment that was inflicted, which no doubt was prescribed by Ordinance, as an absolute favour to put upon a recalcitrant coolie, who will go to gaol to have one quarter of the work and double the "chow" to which he has been accustomed.

This can be regarded as no deterrent punishment at all. (Applause). I am afraid there is no justification for the magistrate having acted otherwise, but if he had been empowered—and perhaps it might be desirable to obtain some powers—if he had been empowered to have ordered the coolie to be caned with his clothes off, as we in school used to be caned with our clothes on—(laughter)—given 29 strokes, and then sent into the street showing his blue and red back, I believe the strike would have been at an end. Much time has been lost. I am very thankful that the Harbour Master, Captain Rumsey, has said what has been on my mind for many years, namely, that the leading Chinese, the men of wealth, the men of standing in this place, are answerable for a great deal of our trouble here. (Applause) Asiatics do not love Englishmen except when they are strong, and as long as they are strong and no longer. Englishmen love the weak; the Chinese love the strong, and I think it would be a very mistaken attitude for us to adopt in the present emergency to consult with the Chinese at all. (Applause). I think it would be undesirable to import a number of Japanese at the present time, and especially under our recent enlightenment with regard to Japanese. Japanese are Asiatics, and I do not think the Japanese are very fond of us. Then it has been suggested that Indians should be engaged, but the fact is that the Chinese are the men we want. The Chinese are the only men that can carry; Indians and Japanese cannot carry. It is the shoulder that is the power of the Chinese coolie, and that is what we want, and what we must obtain. I think, sir, that we might represent to the Government our feeling upon the matter in regard to the responsibility for this state of things. I am quite sure that these poor men are not the men who are responsible. As the Chairman has stated, they are led by others. Let it be clearly stated by the Government that they hold the leading Chinese responsible for the state of the place. This might seem to our British ideas unsuitable, but the Chinese will not regard it as unsuitable. It is entirely in keeping with their system. The Government should say, "We make you responsible for this matter and if you do not mend we shall take some steps against you with regard to it." We have been too lenient in the past. When I first came to Hongkong every Chinese coolie doffed his cap and stood on one side to allow you to pass. When do you see a coolie do that now? We do not exercise our undoubted superiority. We must rule by power, and it is this we must assert in Hongkong, and by which we must carry the day. (Applause).

Mr. C. S. TAYLOR—The Chinaman is imbued with his own notions of the Government, and he gains sufficient knowledge of our laws to know that so long as he does not break the laws we do not interfere with him. But he perhaps does not know that on an emergency the Government has power to suspend the law. The present crisis may not be regarded by Western nations as an emergency, but Western nations do not live in Hongkong, and do not look at the matter in the same light as we do. I understand that we meet here to-day to advise the Government. I suggest that the Government should give notice "that unless this strike is finished on Monday we proclaim martial law." (Hear, hear, and applause). During Sunday the Government could make its arrangements. (Applause).

Mr. DENNIS—Mr. Gillies, as I understand him, said that he thought it might be advisable to approach the Chinese representatives of the strikers in order to find out what they wanted. If the coolies were striking for higher wages I for one would say find out what the Chinese want. I have had considerable experience with the Chinese and I say that they simply take this stand and say to the Government, "If you do not do what we want coolies shall strike, the coaling coolies first, then the merchant coolies, then the house boys, and so on, including ricksha and chair coolies." It begins with labour. If that is not found sufficient shops will be closed. It is the aim of certain people to enforce their ideas by threatening the Government, and therefore I think that every Englishman, every European, living in this colony ought to back up the Government as far as possible during this crisis. (Applause).

Mr. DONWELL asked what had been done by the Registrar-General's Office.



**Mr. MACKINTOSH**—The Registrar-General has informed me that no measure affecting the Chinese has received such great care, during his tenure of office, in the explanation of its provisions to those interested, that the various mis-statements now preferred by the coolies have been fully explained to the head men, and that three thousand circulars and posters have been distributed amongst those interested, giving in clear detail the actual position of those who would be affected by the Bill. The men were filled with all manner of inconsistencies, as Mr. Gillies has mentioned. They said they were to be fined and poll taxed. They were told that this was all an illusion. Over three thousand placards were printed and circulated amongst the whole of these men explaining how the matter stood. In my own case I have had before me the heads of the different departments, representing three thousand men, and first of all they said the Government would impose a poll tax. I said, "I will pay the poll tax; there will be no poll tax." Then they said there was a registration fee. I said, "We will pay the registration fee." Then they said they were threatened by men, who would come down and kill them. I said, "There are three thousand of you. How many men are coming down here? Why, you would eat them up." I also told them that they would have protection from military and police. They replied, "We might be beaten on leaving the premises." I said, "You will not be beaten, but if you do go away from the premises and get beaten and if you will produce the man that beats you I will give \$200 to each man." (Applause). Underlying all this is the wire puller at the back. Who he is I do not know, and I wish we did. There is a secret fund which is supporting these men, and whether it comes from the guilds we do not know. The Government are unable to find out. Detectives have been sent out, but they have not succeeded in arresting anyone. The men themselves are perfectly passive and indifferent, and the only reply I can get from them now is, "If you will get the Hongkong coolies to go in we will go in also."

The **CHAIRMAN**—I would suggest as a practical measure that a Committee of five or seven gentlemen be elected by the meeting to deliberate upon this grave question and to put themselves in connection with the Government.

**Mr. FENWICK**—I beg to second that.

The following Committee was thereupon appointed:—Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. Mackintosh, D. Gillies, N. A. Siebs, G. B. Dodwell, H. L. Denny, and St. C. Michaelson.

The **CHAIRMAN**—If that Committee meets with general approval I propose that it be authorized to add to its number if necessary. (Applause).

The suggestion was approved.

The **CHAIRMAN**—That concludes the business of this meeting, which I hope will not have been in vain. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing on behalf of the meeting the very great obligation I consider the public are under to the military and to the navy for the great services they have rendered in the unparalleled emergencies of the colony. (Hear, hear, and applause).

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

#### CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE AND THE CHINESE.

An important conference was held at the City Hall on Friday between the Committee which was appointed on Thursday and a hundred of the leading Chinese, for whom Mr. Ho Tung was spokesman. On the previous evening the compradores met at Mr. Ho Tung's office to consider the situation, and subsequently the members of the Nam Pak Hong were called upon, and another meeting was held in the Yuen Fat hong. It was then decided to meet the Committee at the City Hall and to fully discuss the situation with them. Reporters were not present at the conference, but we understand from Mr. Ho Tung that the Chinese were asked what were the real grievances of the coolies. The reply was that none of the merchants knew, because they could not get at the head coolies, who had gone to Chinese Kowloon, leaving their agents in charge of the houses. Mr. Ho Tung was then asked to make suggestions which might result in bringing the crisis to a conclusion. Mr. Ho

Tung strongly deprecated certain statements made at Thursday's meeting that the leading Chinese were backing up the coolies and that they had hindered the Government in enforcing the law. These statements were untrue, and to prove that the Chinese regretted the strike he mentioned that their loss during the last few days amounted to upwards of \$200,000. Was it likely, in the face of this enormous loss, that the leading merchants would support the strike? Mr. Ho Tung then made suggestions asked for by the Committee. The first was that the foreign hong should guarantee that no poll tax or registration fee should be imposed, and, secondly, that the landlord, and not the keeper, should be licensed. A great deal of discussion ensued, and Mr. Ho Tung pointed out that some time ago when the cargo boats were first licensed only a nominal fee was charged for registration, but afterwards the fee was increased to as much as \$20, according to the size of the boat. Exactly the same thing happened with the ricksha and chair coolies. The Government at first assured the coolies that only a nominal fee would be asked for, but that fee had been increased by 100 per cent. The ricksha and chair coolies had to wear a number on their back, in front, and on the arms, and the other coolies were afraid that with the advent of licensing they would also have to go about numbered in this fashion like prisoners. After some further discussion it was decided to see the Governor, but His Excellency was out, and the Colonial Secretary was interviewed. He, however, could not do anything in the absence of His Excellency. On the conference resuming the Committee agreed to guarantee that there should be no poll tax, and to lay the suggestion that the landlords, and not the keepers, should be registered before the Governor. The Committee thereupon promised to issue a proclamation in these terms and asking the coolies to return to work.

The following is a translation of the proclamation issued by the Committee:—

Hongkong, 29th March 1895.

"As we, the undersigned firms and persons, understand that one of the reasons for your coolies to strike is because a poll-tax, or registration fee, or license fee, may be imposed by the Government, we hereby guarantee that there is no intention whatever on the part of the Government to make such an imposition now or hereafter.

"A meeting was held this afternoon in the Chamber of Commerce between ourselves and many of the leading members of the Chinese community, and it was decided that we should wait upon His Excellency the Governor, tomorrow morning, and recommend that you coolies should be exempted from registering your houses, and that the landlords be made to do what is required by the Government for you.

"We hope the Government will adopt our recommendations, and it is our earnest wish that you should resume work at once.

"(Signed) JARDINE, MATHESON AND CO.  
MELCHERS AND CO.  
SIEMSEN AND CO.  
DODWELL, CARLILL AND CO.  
D. GILLIES.  
BUTTERFIELD AND SWIRE,  
H. L. DENNY."

#### DEPUTATION TO THE GOVERNOR.

##### EXTRAORDINARY SCENE.

30th March.

On Saturday afternoon the Committee appointed at the public meeting held in the Chamber of Commerce Room on Thursday last waited upon his Excellency the Governor at Government House in order to make recommendations suggested by the leading Chinese in regard to the coolie strike. The members of the Committee present were Hon. J. J. Keswick (Chairman), Messrs. E. Mackintosh, G. B. Dodwell, N. A. Siebs, H. L. Denny, and St. C. Michaelson. They were accompanied by Hon. Ho Kai, and there were also in the room Hon. J. H. Stewart-Loockhart (Colonial Secretary) and Mr. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police).

His EXCELLENCY having received the deputation,

Hon. J. J. KESWICK said—We are the Committee appointed at the public meeting which took place the day before yesterday to consider the crisis arising out of the labour difficulties. We had a meeting yesterday at the Council Chamber, and were there met by a large com-

mittee of Chinese compradores and persons connected with various hong.

His EXCELLENCY—At the Chamber of Commerce?

The Hon. J. J. KESWICK—At the Chamber of Commerce. The persons represented I have not the names of; but they were the masters of the principal Nam Pak Hong, the large merchants, the piece goods merchants, the coal merchants, opium merchants, shipping merchants, and the compradores of the leading European firms. They represented to this Committee that the chief objection which the coolies had to the present registration law was the fear that it was a precursor of a poll tax, and we thereupon, after some considerable discussion with them, endeavoured to seek an interview with your Excellency, but as you were not at Government House we had an interview with the Colonial Secretary. We informed the Colonial Secretary of what had passed, and in the evening he informed us that you were not prepared, or that you were averse, to acquiesce to the proposal which had been submitted, namely, that the landlords should be registered instead of the tenants. We returned to the deputation and they informed us that the whole difficulty would be at once overcome if the members of the Committee present, on behalf of the various firms they represented, would give a guarantee that there would be nothing in the shape of a poll tax. In view of your Excellency's statement, we had no difficulty in giving a guarantee. We gave them a guarantee, a translation of which has been put into the papers, which doubtless your Excellency has seen. Immediately thereafter it would appear that the coolies' representatives had become aware of this guarantee and the labourers were prepared to return to their work. It would appear, however, that they bethought themselves and decided that they would wait to see the issue of a notification from the Government. We have come now, sir, to ask your Excellency, seeing that the strike continues, what steps you believe would be practicable in order to put an end to the strike. If I have not fully represented the views of the Committee, perhaps you will allow some other gentleman to amplify the remarks I have made.

**Mr. E. MACKINTOSH**—Your Excellency and gentlemen, the sole question that rests between the strikers and the employers of labour through the Government is this, the Government have insisted by their latest legislation that the coolie tenant of a coolie hong, shall become registered to the Government to fulfil the various obligations under the by-laws that have been passed by the Legislative Council or by the Sanitary Board; and in the event of the coolie tenant being unavailable and that he cannot be got at it shall devolve upon the landlord or the owner of the property. It appears to me that the Chinese in asking for the obliteration of the coolie tenant are on all fours with their desire that they should obtain from us and also from the Government a statement that no poll tax or registration fee will be imposed. If you will look at it, the Government have granted these two positions—first the tenant, next the landlord; ergo, it is optional for the registrar to put forward the tenant or the landlord; therefore these gentlemen who are speaking for the coolie hong have no grievance whatever, either as regards the imposition of a poll tax or as regards a guarantee that shall be given, because they can simply say to the Government, "We will not give the tenant; we will give the landlord." The thing is in a nutshell. If the Government decline to strike out the tenant and rely solely on the landowner, the Chinese can simply say "the tenant is now out; here is the landlord." I think this is a solution of the whole thing. It is really a quibble in terms. The Government insist upon two people; failing one they will take the other—one the tenant, the other the landlord. The deputation we saw yesterday, I may say, is not a deputation from the coolie guilds or the strikers in any shape or way. Our difficulty when we were appointed was to get at the coolie gentlemen, and we believe the Government have had exactly the same difficulty as ourselves. We cannot get at them. They have fled; they cannot be found. Our next position was to get at those who we think, and we think reasonably, are in some way connected with the coolie hong and have some influence over them, and hear what their grievance is. We have individually tried to find out what special grievance there is,



and after careful examination of every statement put before us it amounts to nothing. It is really a grievance against the Government for passing regulations they think will be a restriction upon them. This restriction, I think, can be got over by an explanatory proclamation stating a recapitulation of the guarantee given by the Committee that there will be no poll tax and no registration fee, and that the landlord of the house shall be the guarantor instead of the tenant. It is optional for these gentlemen to say, "We will not give a guarantee; here is the landlord." If that were to be put in a proclamation and published throughout the colony, I think the thing would be finished to-morrow. I may say that these Chinese gentlemen we met asked us to give the guarantee, which we were perfectly prepared to give. We gave it with the idea of resuming business in this colony as quickly as we possibly could, for it is a matter of the most serious importance to the whole community. We see that these gentlemen stated that their own loss was \$200,000 for the two or three days. That is probably exaggerated, but speaking for myself and the other members of the deputation round you, most of them largely connected with labour works in this colony, I may say that the losses of these gentlemen will not fall very far short of that sum.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I was invited by Mr. Keswick to attend the meeting to-day, no doubt with a view of supporting the recommendation of the Committee. I must say that the decision of the deputation was in agreement with what on a former occasion a certain number of the Chinese had recommended in another place, that the landlords should be allowed to register for the tenants and the head coolies. After they have settled down and seen that the law will work no hardship upon them they would very likely be induced to register for themselves. It is perfectly plain that these coolies are ignorant and have no knowledge of what is really good for them, and, like children when they see a strange thing for the first time, they are apt to be very shy. But as soon as they become more acquainted with the law and the working of it, I have not the slightest doubt they will quietly submit to the views of the Government. The advantage of having landowners registered is this. So far as the coolies are concerned they do not get much advice; they do not know very much. But the landlords, who are a more intelligent body of persons and can get legal advice whenever they desire, can protect themselves if they choose by afterwards asking the coolies to give certain guarantees against the infringement of the law. Among Chinese it is well known that the tenants of houses constantly deposit some of the money with the landlord in order to secure the payment of the rental for a month or two months in advance. Now by the same process it appears to me that the landlord can protect himself by asking the tenant to deposit a certain sum of money to secure the carrying out of the law. The other day—I think it is a matter alluded to by Mr. Mackintosh—we passed a law that in the absence of the head coolie—that is, the actual tenant of the house—the householder or, in the absence of the householder, the immediate landlord or landowner is responsible for the registration and the carrying out of the by-laws after registration. Now it seems to me that the Government by adopting that are offering two modes of registration to the people. In the first instance, they desire the head coolie should register, and if they do not carry out the provisions, the landlord or the householder whoever he may be would have to be responsible. It seems to me that if the Government to-day were to consent to the views expressed by the deputation, to make a proclamation that we give the option that the head coolies have to be registered or else that the landlord or the householder would have to register for them, then I think the problem would be solved; and so far as to-day is concerned I think a good number of coolies have returned to work after receiving the circular published by the members of the deputation, and now they are only waiting for the Government to give its decision, so that all of them may return to work as speedily as possible. I hope your Excellency will see your way to support the circular published by the Committee by allowing the coolies the option of either registering themselves by the head men or through the landlords.

Mr. DENNIS—If your Excellency will allow

me I would like to say one word. Of course the interests represented by the Committee are chiefly mercantile. I was at that meeting which has been referred to, and quite as a surprise to myself I was nominated a member of the Committee. I have in my profession had to study the Ordinance. As I understand that Ordinance it was brought in in 1887, and attached to the Ordinance were certain by-laws which provided for the sanitary arrangements in common lodging houses. These by-laws require that certain cubic feet should be given to each inhabitant of the house, that certain lavatories and arrangements of that nature should be provided, that certain tiled floors and certain other things should be found, and that a register should be kept of the inmates of the house. Section 73 of the Ordinance provides that nobody shall open a registered lodging house without first of all getting a licence from the Registrar-General, and in order to get the licence he shall make a report to the Sanitary Board about his house, showing that it is a proper house to be a common lodging house and get something in the nature of a licence from the Sanitary Board to be presented to the Registrar-General, and then he will get his licence. Now, of course, I am here as a member of this Committee, but as a member of this Committee and having recommended a certain thing to the Government I think it is fair to urge that these by-laws could be much better carried out by the landlord, by a responsible man, than by the head coolie, who is only getting each day twice the amount of the ordinary coolie. The person who is called the tenant in this Ordinance is simply a head coolie. The other coolies, say, are getting 10 or 20 cents; he is getting 20 or 40 cents a day. Is that the sort of man to go to the Sanitary Board as to the house and make a report about it? Is that the sort of man after getting a report from the Sanitary Board to go to the Registrar-General? Would it not be better to have responsible the landlord—somebody who has a stake in this colony—to apply for this licence? Of course everybody understands the Government here does not like to give way to the strikers—does not like to appear to be dictated to by Chinese who have taken part in this movement. But the Committee do not represent the strikers, and do not come on behalf of the strikers, and were appointed by the meeting of the European community; and it was only because they could not find out in the least what the alleged grievances of these men were that they invited them to meet the Committee in the Chamber of Commerce room. I submit to your Excellency it would really create no hardship whatever if the landlord were put in instead of the tenant, and then these sanitary by-laws which have remained unenforced since 1887 could be enforced to-morrow.

Mr. F. H. MAY was then asked by His Excellency to speak, and he said—I have listened with considerable astonishment to the remarks made by the members present in favour of throwing the responsibility of common lodging houses upon landlords. I do not think that any of the gentlemen, including Mr. Dennis, can have possibly read these by-laws since 1887. I will with your Excellency's permission draw attention for one moment to some of the things which these by-laws require the keeper of a common lodging house to carry out. "The keeper of a common lodging house shall affix and keep in a conspicuous position on the outside of his lodging house a board having printed on it in English and Chinese in legible white letters and characters, &c., and shall also affix and keep in a conspicuous place in each room a board showing the number of persons who shall inhabit the room." "The keeper of a common lodging house shall not permit males and females above 10 years of age respectively to occupy the same sleeping compartment, except in the cases of husband and wife." How, may I ask, is any landlord who owns perhaps four or five hundred houses in this colony to go round and see that boys and girls do not sleep together? "The keeper of a common lodging house shall not knowingly permit persons of bad character to lodge in his house, and shall also keep a register of the names of each lodger." How is a landlord going to enforce this? "The keeper of a common lodging house shall cause the windows of each room to be kept open for four hours each day." It would be a nice sight indeed to see Mr. Chater or Dr. Ho Kai going round opening windows of lodging houses for four hours a day. "The keeper of a common

lodging house shall cause the internal walls and ceilings to be cleansed and limewashed twice a year." That might be arranged. But he shall keep his premises in a clean condition and shall cause every room and passage to be thoroughly swept once a day, and shall cause all filth and house refuse to be removed from his premises daily." A very nice position I should be put in as President of the Sanitary Board to be summoning Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. Chater, and perhaps Mr. Mackintosh for paltry and petty nuisances in their common lodging houses! A nice figure our merchant princes would cut in the magistrate's court for not removing the house refuse from their common lodging houses. We come finally to the reporting of infectious diseases, such as bubonic plague, cholera, &c. These are duties and responsibilities which must be cast upon the occupier, and in various other Ordinances they are cast upon the occupier. Take the Gambling Ordinance. If I find gambling on the floor of a certain house, whom do I summon? If you are to make the landlords responsible for everything that goes on in every house in the colony—gambling and every sort of nuisance of whatever nature—the next time I have a gambling warrant to execute I shall probably have Dr. Ho Kai in the dock for having a gambling house. The thing is entirely ridiculous. I am perfectly astonished that members of the mercantile community should come forward with such a preposterous proposal. It is unworkable. The only reason why the Government in recent legislation have made the landlord ultimately responsible was because Mr. Dennis' clients took French leave and walked off to Kowloon City.

Mr. DENNIS—I must ask for the names of these clients. I do not know whom Mr. May refers to. I do not think it is very good taste for him to make that statement unless he is prepared to state the names of those clients. I know of no client of mine who has left the colony since this Ordinance was enforced. My clients were the only men summoned who came to the police court to meet the police authorities, and the police authorities have disposed of the cases against them.

Mr. MAY—I think it is true, as Mr. Dennis says, that his clients have not run away, and I withdraw and apologise. I was the officer who suggested that the landlord should be made ultimately responsible, but I never proposed that he should be made primarily responsible. You must make the occupier of the floor—the man who opens the house for his own gain—responsible. But unfortunately we are so near the Chinese mainland that whenever there is any trouble the persons who are wanted run away; you cannot find them and as you must make some one responsible I think it is only reasonable, therefore, to make the owner ultimately responsible. Having said this much and your Excellency having asked me to state my opinions I deem it my duty as Captain Superintendent of Police in this colony and responsible as such for the law and order of this colony, and also in my capacity as President of the Sanitary Board, which is responsible for the carrying out of the sanitary legislation of this colony, to state that I consider the action of this Committee in aiding and abetting this movement for a compromise has been most mischievous and, I go so far as to add, most disloyal to this Government.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—I take exception most emphatically to this remark, that this Committee have in any way aided and abetted this strike.

The whole of the members of the Committee stood up, and when the Hon. J. J. Keswick remarked "Unless it is withdrawn I shall retire from this room at once," the other members also asserted their determination to retire if Mr. May did not withdraw the remark. Mr. Mackintosh said the assertion should never have been made.

Mr. MAY—I withdraw the expression.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I have no doubt the suggestions of the Committee were made with the very best intentions.

Mr. MAY—I withdraw the expression with regret, but I must say I consider the action of the Committee was most unfortunate. I had the honour of reporting to your Excellency yesterday afternoon that this strike was practically at an end. I did so under what was very good authority. I had been going out of my way during the strike to assist the mercantile community so far as I could, and I can assure your



Excellency that yesterday afternoon I hired 50 coolies for Messrs. Siemssen and Co. They did not turn up this morning, and Siemssen and Co. asked me why. I sent out for the coolies and the answer I got was, "We are going to see what the Governor is going to do now." If a firm attitude had been maintained this strike would have been at an end.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I would like to make a few remarks with regard to what has been said by the members of the Committee. As the Chairman has informed your Excellency, we met yesterday in the Council Chamber. Your Excellency was not at home, so the deputation was unable to wait upon you. At that meeting the proposal the Committee refer to now was brought forward, namely, that the landlord should be made responsible instead of the head coolie. At that time I pointed out to the Committee that by so doing you practically relieved the coolies of all responsibility, and that amounted to a victory for the coolies. If the necessity for registering was not imposed upon them but was imposed in all cases upon the owner, the coolie would have gained the day. I, however, informed the deputation that I would convey their views to your Excellency, and I think your Excellency will support me when I say that I did convey to you those views, and I advanced to you all the arguments in favour of the proposal I heard from the Committee—the arguments repeated to-day by the various speakers. Your Excellency having heard the views of the Committee as stated to me directed me to write the following letter to Mr. Keswick. It was written last night and was therefore of a semi-formal nature:—

"Government House,  
29th March, 7.30 p.m.

"My dear Keswick.—I have just seen His Excellency, who directs me to state for the information of the Committee that he is averse to making any concession whatever and does not view favourably the proposal you have submitted.—Yours,

"J. H. STEWART LOCKHART.

"P.S.—The Captain Superintendent of Police reports that in his opinion the strike is practically over."

At the deputation yesterday there was also mention of a proclamation being issued, and when that suggestion was made I stated clearly to the Committee that I considered it would be inadvisable to issue any proclamation unless some definite change in the law was consented to by your Excellency in the first place and of course ultimately by the Legislative Council. I think the Committee will agree that it was clearly stated and equally clearly understood.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—Excuse me one moment. I do not think it was clearly understood, as a subsequent note came from Mr. Lockhart stating that it would be undesirable to make any concession. I drew Mr. Mackintosh's attention to it and he did not understand it. I know it was informal.

Mr. MACKINTOSH—I understood it to be a Government proclamation, and not a proclamation by the Committee.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—It was a misunderstanding.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I remember distinctly making these remarks, and I think I can refresh the memory of Mr. Dodwell.

Mr. DODWELL made a remark which the reporters could not catch.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The point I wish to make was that if any notice was issued it would be misinterpreted and the coolies would be misled and induced to return to work perhaps under false pretences. Well, this morning I had put into my hands a notice in Chinese which purports to be issued by the Committee and which states far more than the Chairman of the Committee informed me the Committee authorised to be stated in the guarantee which they gave in regard to the registration fee and poll tax. That question was brought up at the Committee meeting yesterday, and I then informed the deputation that the Government had not only issued 3,000 notices informing the coolies that no poll tax or registration fee was to be charged, but also that special men had been sent round to explain orally the contents of this notice to the coolies, who are in many instances unable to read; and I said I did not think any good would be done by repeating what had been stated so frequently already. But I said there would be no objection in stating to the

coolies that no registration fees or poll tax would be charged. This is the translation of the Chinese:—

"FOR INFORMATION.

"We, the undersigned merchants, have learnt that you coolies have combined and ceased work through fear that the Government will levy a poll tax or registration fee. But we can assuredly guarantee that the Government has not the slightest intention of doing so. We are certain that His Excellency the Governor will grant our request," &c.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—Excuse me interrupting. After I received Mr. Lockhart's letter this afternoon with reference to the notice I immediately enquired what the expression was that was calculated to mislead the coolies.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I challenge any one to say that the Chinese in this document does not mean what I have represented in this translation—"We are certain that His Excellency the Governor will grant our request." I have had no desire whatever to quibble over words in this matter.

Dr. HO KAI (towards whom the Colonial Secretary had turned)—I think Mr. Lockhart is appealing to me. The word is coming before qualifies it entirely.

Mr. DENNIS—The translation was approved of by the Registrar-General's Office.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It was not approved by the Registrar-General. He never saw the translation.

His EXCELLENCY—By whose authority was it issued?

Mr. DENNIS—I do not know.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It was not done under official authority. With respect to my letter which I dictated last night—

His EXCELLENCY—Who authorised the proclamation that the Government would accede to the guarantees of the Committee?

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—The Committee never said so. When we left the Colonial Secretary's Office this statement in writing was then given to the deputation in English, a copy of which appeared in the papers, and that was, so far as I know, about a quarter past five o'clock. I received your letter at East Point about 5 or 10 minutes past eight o'clock. It was timed "7.30."

His EXCELLENCY—Why was the notification issued before my letter was received?

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—It was outside our hands altogether. No member whatever of this Committee took this action.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I thought the Committee were responsible for this Chinese. The Committee deny all responsibility for this Chinese?

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—The Committee have not seen the translation. We had nothing to do with the translation.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think it is important that the Committee should state that clearly, seeing that the names of all their firms are attached to the notice. I think it is also important to ascertain who is responsible for this notice; because it is certain, I believe, that it has created a false feeling amongst the labouring classes that they have practically succeeded in escaping the necessity of registration, and as His Excellency has stated through me in a letter which I addressed to Mr. Keswick last night there is no intention whatever on the part of the Government to compromise in that direction in any way. At the meeting held in the City Hall, so far as I can learn from the newspaper reports, there was absolutely no grievance on the part of the labourers. To-day no member of the Committee has pointed out a single grievance alleged. It is therefore not to be thought for one moment that the Government is going to concede to a body of men who have caused great inconvenience and loss to this colony without a shadow of reason or without any grievance whatever. I do not think there is any necessity to say more.

His EXCELLENCY—I am very glad to have heard your views upon this subject. It is a matter of very serious importance, but at the same time I cannot conceal my astonishment at the wonderful change of face which has taken place within the last two days amongst the mercantile community. On Thursday last I stated in the Council Chamber that I had taken up a certain position and did not intend to depart from it, and that I thought it would be weak and criminal to do so, and that I hoped all the mercantile community would support me through

thick and thin. Gentlemen, that statement was received with applause. That same afternoon a public meeting was held in the Chamber of Commerce and, as has been observed by Mr. Lockhart, every member who spoke—as far as the papers are a guide—was in favour of combination—strong combination—these were the words, used by Mr. Mackintosh.

Mr. MACKINTOSH—Certainly.

His EXCELLENCY—And it was stated by Mr. Dennis that the coolies, also the ricksha and chair coolies and the house boys would be striking, too; and every member, with the exception of Mr. Gillies, who is not here present, and whose remarks were received with disapproval, was in favour of strong action and combination against these strikers. I am sorry I was out on the harbour yesterday afternoon and did not return till seven o'clock, when I found Mr. Lockhart, who had been waiting here—and he had waited two hours—to hear my decision. I had no hesitation in coming to that decision. I consider the suggestion you made simply a weak concession to these men, who have not the slightest claim for consideration or any grievance whatever, and I think the suggestion to make the landlord primarily responsible is—as Mr. May has properly observed—improper, inequitable, illogical, unjust, and could never be carried out. I mean to say the issue of this notification or proclamation—the action you have taken, although no doubt it was very well intended, has placed me in considerable difficulty. I find my position weakened, but I have no intention of departing from it. I very much regret indeed that I cannot give a more favourable answer to the representations of the Committee. I am fortified in this position by the knowledge that the Canadian Pacific Railway and the P. and O. Company are strongly adverse to any concession whatever; and I hear from the agent of the C.P.R. that their men were actually coming into work this morning, and on receiving this notification they turned their backs upon the P. and O. and C.P.R. I am very sorry I cannot give you a more favourable answer; and I believe if we hold out the strike will be over on Monday or Tuesday. If we could get hold of the head men—not Mr. Dennis's clients—who are in hiding in Kowloon, we shall take care they do not come back to the colony again.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—In the first place I must express the acknowledgment of the Committee to your Excellency for receiving us this afternoon. But I express very great regret, in coming here in order to invite an expression of your Excellency's views on this subject and to make our recommendation that the landlords should register instead of the tenant, to find there was no moderation in language on the part of a gentleman here.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—That was withdrawn.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—I quite recognise it was withdrawn, but it shows the antagonism which exists. Yesterday when we met that deputation and made the guarantee that there would be no poll tax, I need hardly say it was done with the assurance—which I am sure was not mistaken—that the strike would cease immediately it was given. The strike practically did cease as soon as the knowledge of that was given, and it was reverted to only this morning in order that they might have the Government notification. I think it is a great pity that in serious matters like this any unnecessary passion should be imported into the discussion. I came here with the desire of discussing in a quiet and calm manner a matter of serious import; but if your Excellency thinks it is necessary to hold firm and make no concession, I would ask, is the Government fully aware that it is strong enough to quell this strike before it has brought most terrible consequences upon the colony? Has it the power—is the Ordinance ready to put in force to stop this strike? If it has I shall be glad; but I doubt it very much. I am fully aware of the inadequacy of my words. I have not expressed all I might have or wished to express, but if I have said anything improperly I offer apologies. But I feel strongly this is a matter which requires further consideration on the part of the Government. I believe I am expressing the opinions of the Committee—and the opinions of all who attended the meeting on Thursday—when I say that there is only one feeling—to strengthen and support the Government, far from undermining it. For myself—



**HIS EXCELLENCY**—I am very glad to receive from the hon. member all these assurances, which I am sure need not have been given. The unfortunate expression of the Captain Superintendent of Police was immediately withdrawn, and as it was withdrawn you must make full allowance for the difficulty of his position. He has been working night and day and is responsible for law and order all over the place, and it is only natural he should feel rather strongly upon this matter. As for the power of the Government, I think it is quite strong enough and ready enough to meet any difficulty which might arise. At least I trust so. If not, we shall take further measures. If this, which I cannot but consider is a weak concession, were made it would make matters worse. It would be handing over the rule of the colony to mob rule—to those head coolies, and I certainly do not wish it ever to be said, while I am here or after I have left, that I have handed over this colony to mob rule either from fear, favour, affection, or ill-will.

**MR. F. H. MAY**—Before the gentlemen leave—I have already withdrawn the remark I made—I wish to apologise to the gentlemen if I have in any way hurt their feelings. I can only say that my every endeavour is to do the best I can for the colony, and I sincerely believe the best thing for the colony in its present emergency is to see this strike out, however great the inconvenience. It may entail the loss of a few hundred thousand dollars, but it will be the cheapest thing in the end.

The deputation then withdrew.

#### THE COMMITTEE REVIEW THEIR POSITION. To the Editor of the *Daily Press*.

SIR,—As members of the Committee appointed by the meeting held at the City Hall on Thursday, the 28th ult., to consider what should be done in the present labour crisis, we beg to request that you will publish the following statement of what we have done in the interval and of what has taken place.

We held immediately after the public meeting a meeting of the Committee to consider what steps we should take, and we unanimously decided that our first efforts should be in the direction of obtaining information as to what the grievances of the coolies really were. With that object we summoned at once the compradores of the leading firms to confer with us and on their advice we awaited the result of the meeting they were to hold themselves the same evening. We understand that this meeting continued until 10 p.m., and the following morning we were informed that they would meet us at 3 p.m., together with representatives of other influential native firms, and communicate to us their views. We accordingly met them at 3 p.m. on Saturday at the Chamber of Commerce Room, and enquired whether they could inform us what the grievances of the coolies were, if any, and what they suggested should be done under the circumstances. They replied that the great apprehension of the coolies was that the proposal to register really concealed behind it an intention of the Government ultimately to impose a poll tax. We pointed out in the strongest way possible in rejoinder that the idea of a poll tax was perfectly preposterous, and was entirely contrary to the general principle of British Colonial Government. His Excellency the Governor had already himself stated in Council that such an idea was out of the question. We thereupon asked them if they had any other grievances, and their reply was that although they had not communicated with them the Chinese deputation understood that the coolies were afraid that if they were registered they would hereafter be treated in a similar manner to that to which the cargo-boat men had been subjected; for, although only a nominal fee had been charged at the commencement, it was afterwards very considerably increased. The same had been done with the ricksha men, and they also instanced the brothels, which are now unregistered, and it seemed anomalous to them that honest free labour should be taxed, and thus be put below those who earned their livelihood by vice. They added that although they were unable to communicate with the coolie house keepers they were under the impression that if the landlord could be substituted for the tenant as the person to register under the Ordinance, the coolies would probably return to their work and business be resumed.

At this stage it became necessary for us to

ascertain what view His Excellency the Governor would be likely to take of such a proposal, and a member of the Committee went to ascertain whether His Excellency could then be interviewed. Unfortunately the Governor at the time was absent and it was impossible to say when he would return. The Committee therefore decided that they would wait upon the Colonial Secretary, who was able to see them.

At the interview with Mr. Lockhart the Committee briefly related to him what had taken place, and mentioned that if the registration of landlords was resorted to the coolies would probably be satisfied. Mr. Lockhart, very naturally, did not feel at liberty to express any opinion as to what view His Excellency might take of the matter, but he courteously promised to see the Governor the same evening, and communicate to him what the Committee had said. The Committee intimated that they would not leave their offices until 6.30 p.m. and would be at His Excellency's disposal.

The Chinese deputation were meanwhile awaiting in the City Hall the return of the Committee and they were informed what had taken place. The Committee enquired, as time was of the most urgent importance, whether they did not think that they could manage to bring influence to bear on the coolies, and persuade them to return to work at once. They stated that it was very doubtful, but they thought that if the members of the Committee, who represented very important interests in the colony, were to give their personal guarantee, or the guarantee of their firms, whichever it might be, that there was no intention of imposing a poll tax or registration fee, it might be possible to persuade the coolies to be satisfied and to return to work. A member of the Chinese deputation, in consultation with others, expressed a desire to know from the Committee what their views were as to substituting the landlord for registration instead of the tenant as proposed. The Committee, in view of the fact that the Chinese deputation, many of whom were important landlords, had expressed a willingness to be registered in place of the tenant in order to bridge the present difficulty, saw no reason to object to the transposition, especially as the Government in the Ordinance recently passed provide for his (the landlord's) registration in default of the tenant.

The Chinese deputation then asked the Committee if they would embody their views upon the subject of the landlord being registered in their guarantee, to which the Committee assented. This guarantee was then drawn up in English in the terms which have appeared in the public papers. The deputation thereupon informed the Committee that they would translate it into Chinese and announce it for the information of the coolies, and they hoped that it might have the desired effect. They mentioned that they felt much anxiety on the subject, as their own losses consequent upon the strike were very severe. The Committee thereupon took leave of the deputation, who, they have subsequently learned, arranged to have the substance of this guarantee circulated in Chinese. Later in the evening the Chairman received a letter from the Colonial Secretary dated at 7.30 p.m., a copy of which is attached (marked A).

Being late, about 8.05 p.m., no action could then be taken, but the letter was circulated this forenoon and a meeting of the Committee was called for 11.45 a.m. to consider what should be done in view of His Excellency's decision.

At 11.05 a.m. another letter was received from the Colonial Secretary by the Chairman, a copy of which is attached (marked B). This letter was also submitted to the Committee at their meeting, and it was decided to ask His Excellency for an interview, which was arranged to take place at 2.30 p.m.

The Committee accordingly waited upon His Excellency at Government House, accompanied, by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, who, in view of his knowledge of the Chinese, would be able to assist in the deliberations. H.E. was attended by the Colonial Secretary and the Captain Superintendent of Police. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mackintosh, Dr. Ho Kai, and Mr. Denny, all explained to H.E. and the officers with him what had taken place, and, as reporters were present, a detailed statement of what passed on both sides will doubtless be published. The Committee consider that they will best consult their own dignity and self-respect if they pass over without comment some of the remarks

which fell from the Captain Superintendent of Police as they were promptly withdrawn; but they cannot refrain from expressing surprise and regret at the evident determination of the officers of the Government to prejudice and not even to calmly debate the whole question.

The subject of the registration of landowners or tenants is one upon which there may very properly be a difference of opinion, but in view of the fact that we had the expressed conviction of the Chinese deputation that by the registration of landlords instead of the head coolies the present strike would be at an end, the Committee consider that it was fully justified in strongly recommending the measure. The Government had legislated practically that registration should take place either by the tenant or by the landlord; therefore they had in effect conceded what the Chinese deputation required, for it was perfectly competent for a landlord to register in default of the tenant appearing, and yet he would comply with the law, and the full benefits of the Health Ordinance and the enforcement of by-laws thereunder would be obtained.

The highly coloured picture drawn by the Captain Superintendent of Police of the great disabilities that would be incurred, particularly by European landlords, can be dismissed at once, for it is perfectly possible to obtain from the Chinese tenant securities that shall amply cover the pains and penalties that are provided by the law. The Committee may state that in their daily business in this colony they incur risks (with Chinese) that are far greater than are provided by this legislation.

It will be observed in the report of what was said by the hon. the Colonial Secretary that he took some exception to the manner in which the Committee's guarantee was translated and its publication, in face of His Excellency's determination already expressed by letter not to acquiesce in their proposal. We think, however, that what passed will make it perfectly clear to him and the public that no importance can be attached to these incidents, as the guarantee was given in English more than two hours before His Excellency's letter was received, and with reference to the translation, though the Committee can accept no responsibility therefor, they are informed that it was a fair one, and not open to the criticism passed on it by the Colonial Secretary.

What we have already written appears to be sufficient to convey to the public, and those who appointed us at the public meeting, a fair idea of all that has taken place up to the present time, and we leave the subject at this stage.

We propose calling another public meeting on Monday, the 1st April, at 11 a.m., and we trust that this grave subject will be calmly and exhaustively discussed.

Apologising for the length of this letter, which the importance of the subject rendered unavoidable.—We are, sir, your obedient servants,

THE COMMITTEE.

Hongkong, 30th March, 1895.

(Enclosure A.)

Hongkong, 7.30 p.m.

Government House.

My dear Keswick.—I have just seen His Excellency the Governor, who directs me to state, for the information of the Committee, that he is averse to making any concession whatever, and does not view favourably the proposal you have submitted.—Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART.

P.S.—The Captain Superintendent of Police reports that in his opinion the strike is practically over.

(Signed) J. H. S. L.

(Enclosure B.)

30th March, 1895.

Dear Keswick.—Will you kindly ask Mr. Ho Tung to let me have a list of the Chinese gentlemen who met the Committee yesterday. I have just seen a Chinese notice which purports to have been issued by the Committee. It contains a statement calculated to mislead the coolies. It states that the Committee are certain that the Governor will grant the request to allow land owners to register instead of head coolies. From my letter to you last night you will know that the Governor is not prepared to grant this request, and you will remember at our meeting yesterday I said no notice should be issued until the Gover-



nor had given his decision. Can you tell me under whose authority the notice was issued? I am sure the members of the Committee would not be parties to misleading the strikers.—Yours very truly.

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART.

#### THE EFFECT OF THE PROCLAMATION.

As far as can be at present ascertained there has been no alteration in the position of affairs since the meeting on Saturday afternoon. The P. & O. and the C. P. R. Companies were on Saturday morning amply supplied with cargo coolies, who worked until eleven o'clock. At that hour they became acquainted with the terms of the proclamation issued by the committee of mercantile gentlemen, and, goaded by a few shore coolies, they decided to again leave work and await the final answer from the Government. "If the Government does not give way," remarked one prominent Chinese merchant, "the coolies will not go back," a statement which proves that the Committee's circular acted as an incentive to the men to continue the rebellion against the law. It is stated that the P. and O. stevedore announced his intention of registering on Saturday morning, but upon hearing the news, that the Government were "certain to meet the Committee's wishes, he changed his mind and refused to conform with the demands.

#### ANOTHER PUBLIC MEETING.

##### RETIREMENT OF THE COMMITTEE.

A public meeting summoned by the Committee appointed at the meeting on Thursday last was held yesterday morning in the City Hall. The Hon. J. J. Keswick presided, and among those present were—Messrs. E. Mackintosh, St. C. Michaelson, N. A. Siebs, G. B. Dodwell, D. Gillies, H. L. Denny (Committee), Hon. A. McConachie, Captain Ramsey, Messrs. C. C. Platt, J. S. Moses, J. D. Hutchison, W. Danby, G. Murray Bain, J. H. Cox, W. Macbean, G. T. Vietch, C. Ingham, G. C. C. Master, J. S. Enckiel, J. B. Coughtrie, C. Palmer, J. Goosmann, E. C. Ray, D. E. Brown, G. Sharp, H. Skott, D. R. Sassoon, R. Shewan, Rev. G. J. Williams, Capt. Tillet, Messrs. A. Shelton Hooper, S. G. Bird, W. Mathisen, W. A. Duff, E. Jones Hughes, H. Smith, Ho Tung, J. Whalley, A. Findlay Smith, S. L. Darby, U. J. Holmes, F. W. Watts, F. Walker, J. Watson, H. E. Wodehouse, C. A. Tomes, Douglas Jones, A. H. Rennie, E. Goetz, F. Henderson, &c., &c.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the Committee have summoned you together in order to state that they, having done all that lies in their power to assist in terminating the present labour strike, now relinquish all further responsibility, and hope the Government will be successful in bringing the unhappy state of affairs to a speedy conclusion. The Committee individually and collectively may see fit to adopt independent action towards terminating the trouble, but in any case they intend in the future, as in the past, to give their loyal support to the Executive. (Applause). Matters now are just where they were, and the only thing to do, I fear, is to tire the coolies out, which is a long and expensive process. The costs entailed are enormous, but as a matter of course the Government will gain the day in the long run. There ought to be laws in the colony making striking illegal, so that on any recurrence of such strikes they could be put an end to without the enormous losses entailed by a process of exhaustion. (Applause). The best thing this meeting can do is to leave the difficulties and responsibilities in the hands of the Government to deal with (applause); and I would repeat that, so far as this Committee is concerned, its public functions terminate, although it may endeavour to give individual and collective private assistance. (Applause).

There was a pause of two or three minutes, at the end of which

Mr. D. E. BROWN said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I do not think that at the present juncture of the strike, having assembled here to-day, we should permit this meeting to be adjourned now. We, I think—at least—came here to-day to listen to some further suggestions from the members of the community, who were possibly not present at the meeting on Thursday. I think by adjourning now we would very materially weaken the hands of the Government. We

should be here to-day to demonstrate to the strikers that the community is working in perfect accord with the Government and that we are willing to continue our exertions on behalf of the Government. (Applause). I think it would be a very great mistake to let this meeting terminate now. Before the meeting on Thursday—and I might say that has all along been the desire on the part of the community—it was considered advisable that the shipping community should unite and formulate amongst themselves some scheme that would prove of assistance to the Government in quelling what I do not consider a strike but a rebellion. (Applause). A strike in its proper sense, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I consider is one in which the employed have a grievance against the employer of labour; in this case, it is clearly demonstrated the strikers have no grievance against their employers. They are satisfied apparently with the wages they are getting and the treatment they receive at the hands of the employers; but because a certain number of the Chinese community see fit to disagree with and become disgusted with the laws enacted by our Government, I do not think we Europeans should countenance any action on their part with that end in view. We Europeans have to conform with the laws; why should not the Chinese? (Applause). I did not intend to speak and I do not think I should had there not been a possibility of the meeting being declared closed; and I hope anything I have had to say will be taken kindly and will have good effect. My company stands prepared to join the other shipping firms in the colony in devising some scheme either to bring in foreign labour or any other means that will assist the Government in putting down this rebellion. (Loud applause).

Mr. HO TUNG—Gentlemen, if you will allow me I have a few remarks to make. Furthermore, if my English is not sufficient to express my views I hope you will make me every allowance. On Friday last, when the Chinese deputation came to meet the Committee, it appears to my mind that there were only two things to be done. One was for the Government to be very firm and to take all consequences, and the other was to see whether we could modify so as not to lose the credit of the Government, but at the same time to induce the strikers to terminate. The deputation distinctly said that nothing would be done before the Governor's proclamation, but unfortunately the Governor was afloat, and the Colonial Secretary was interviewed and our suggestions were laid before him. I have no hesitation in saying that if any gentleman here had been here on Friday, being over anxious at the loss which he had already sustained, he would have come to no conclusion but the one that the Committee and the deputation did come to. The circular was nothing; it was merely a publication of what actually took place and nothing more. You see, gentlemen, it is very easy to criticise after what has been done, but when you come and work it is quite a different matter. Personally I strongly admire the Government for being firm, because I must strongly condemn the strikers, but I have no hesitation in saying that the Government might have adopted better and more proper preparations, so as to provide the mercantile community with sufficient labourers. They anticipated the strike months ago, and they could have adopted some better preparations so as to avoid the throwing away of thousands of dollars every day by the mercantile community. It is very easy for some gentlemen to say that the leading Chinese are at the bottom of this strike, or that they have been sympathising with the strikers. Well, gentlemen, I appeal to you, as successful business men, to think what benefit or what good the leading Chinese derive from this strike, considering the very heavy losses which they have already sustained. They are not exaggerated, and if you were to go through the figures, I would be able to prove that so far we have lost, if not more, at least as much as the Europeans. I further appeal to the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, who is in close contact with the leading Chinese, and I wonder whether he can in one instance show that the leading Chinese have not given him the most loyal support whenever they have been called upon to do so. You know, gentlemen, Chinese are a very quiet people—the leading Chinese—(hear hear); they are law abiding; they are afraid of the Government, and would never interfere with

what the Government would do because they are afraid of the officials, the same as they are afraid of the officials of their own country, and they would never dare to interfere or disobey the orders of any Government, no matter where they are. (Hear, hear). Now, gentlemen, I thought the whole of last night, and it has been in my mind the whole time, what led to all this trouble, these strikes, and all these unfortunate occurrences. It is all through misunderstanding between the Government and the Chinese—the Europeans I say. This misunderstanding is due to the private meetings between Government officials and the leading Chinese. I think these meetings ought to be held in public so that both the European community and the Chinese will know exactly what has taken place between the Government officials and the Chinese. (Applause). As it is now, if my information is correct, the Government officials send for a select few of the leading Chinese, or perhaps the District Watchmen's Committee, to consult on some things. Well, when they have met—whether when they meet is known to the public I do not say—at least I have not heard—but when they meet the Government officials, if the views of the Chinese do agree with the officials, the credit of the case goes to the head of the department, but on the other hand, if their views do not agree with the officials, their views are disregarded. For example, I read only the other day when the strike commenced that the District Watchmen's Committee made two suggestions to the Government. One was to have the landlords registered instead of the head coolies, and after a few months to get the head coolies to register. The second point was to get the Government to measure the floor so as to see how many coolies the floor can accommodate, because the coolies being ignorant of the law did not know what 300 or 400 cubic feet meant. They think it is a room for one man. I do not think the Government will take these views, but still before the law was passed, and after the views were properly presented to the Government and the Sanitary Board, the whole Committee might have considered whether their views were good or not; whether practicable or not. But this action was entirely disregarded and nobody knew until the last meeting. Gentlemen, I think I am one of the largest property owners and one of the largest business men in this colony; still I have never had the honour of being consulted by the Government. The reasons I do not know; it is a mystery to myself. (Laughter). A gentleman made some remarks to me yesterday, and said "Now why don't you leading Chinese come and help the Government and start coolie hongs yourselves?" It is very easy to say that, but you know the leading Chinese have to study their own business, and consider that by starting coolie houses they would be degrading themselves; besides, they consider they take away the right of labour from other people. Therefore it is impossible for them to start coolie houses. But, gentlemen, it appears to me that the only thing to stop any future trouble of this kind is for the Government to make the Chinese and the officials come in closer contact with each other, bring them closer together and make all the meetings public. If they have anything to say, let it be said in public and not privately, whether they are Government officials or Chinese. That will stop all future misunderstanding or strikes of this nature. I shall be most happy to assist the Government or any gentlemen who may form the Committee to terminate the strike, and if any gentleman has any suggestions to make I would be very happy to support them and to support the Government as well. (Applause).

Mr. SHARP—I am sure we are indebted to Mr. Brown for having proposed that this meeting should not be immediately dispersed. We do not meet here simply to go away, and there are one or two things which I think may fairly be expressed for the benefit of all. (Applause). I think we are all convinced that the principal Chinese—the Chinese merchants—have nothing whatever to do with this strike (applause); that I am sure is well known; but there is another class, a class of middlemen, a dangerous class in this colony, and a class which for many years past has made itself very injurious here, taking to itself rights which it does not in any way possess, and exercising authority and power over the humbler classes in Hongkong, a state of things which ought not to be allowed. It



is an occult and powerful influence, and this strike is not a new thing. We have seen this over and over again, that it is owing to the influence of the bad over the good. As a rule the bad should be afraid of the good; in Hongkong the good are afraid of the bad. I think it would be a most terrible thing if what may be called the worst feature of the advanced civilisation of Europe were imported into China—that contest with jealousy, that war—for it is nothing else—between capital and labour which threatens to reduce our country to a very low state. I hope we shall never see it successfully introduced here. Our hope in this colony is to derive advantage from the employment of Chinamen, the employment of the millions of China; the direct and indirect employment of them;—the direct employment, as the large manufactures of sugar and others do, and the indirect employment of them as the merchants do by buying the products and exporting them to Europe. If that hope is interfered with by the springing up of these jealousies it will dash the anticipation that we have of curing Hongkong of the difficulties of our present position. We have manufactures springing up here and there such as rattan preparations, glass works, and we have many other things springing up here; but the main difficulty is the ruling of the Chinese. I never shall forget the answer of a tobacco manufacturer here. I do not remember his name, but his house is next to the Harbour Master's office. I asked him many years ago, "Why do you have your large manufactory in Macao and have to run backwards and forwards, instead of opening a factory here?" He said, "Sir, I would gladly do it, but we cannot control our workmen here, and therefore I am obliged to carry on my work in Macao." He employs some thousands of men. In England it has recently been found necessary to interfere between contractors and their workmen. It may be necessary, if these guilds hold on in their injudicious and mischievous course to have some legislation of that kind here in order to insure that a larger share of the enormous sums paid by the military, naval, and civil authorities for labour shall go into the hands of the men themselves, and is not abstracted by cunning idlers, and that is the description which might fairly be attached to many of these men. With regard to dealing with the strike, the Chinese, no doubt, are children. But parents do not discuss with children; they simply say that this or that is to be done, and they insist upon its being done. I think we may fairly do that with regard to the recent legislation of the Sanitary Board. There is no doubt whatever that the present position is, as has been mentioned by Mr. Brown, one of rebellion; it is war. The existence of a body of 20,000 coolies—lusty coolies—in Hongkong, disaffected and armed with their formidable bamboo poles (laughter), I say, gentlemen, is a distinct menace to the colony. I think, gentlemen, we may many of us take a different view with regard to the action of the Government in many matters, but in this matter we must all try and carry out the suggestion that Mr. Mackintosh made at the last meeting, that we stand shoulder to shoulder and present an uncompromising front. (Applause). There may be methods by and by of meeting in some way the difficulties which have arisen. For instance, you know, some of you very well, the absurd idea of attaching these conditions to the occupation of the house, which has been referred to in the public press, and then making gentlemen who actually have nothing to do with it responsible for it. But there is no doubt that these things are necessary, and if the householders object to bear them let some concession be made to them in this way. Supposing the coolie house to be exempted from the 13 per cent. taxation. It might be considered by the Government perhaps, and it would be one way to meet what is undoubtedly a difficulty. No landlord in Hongkong wants coolies in his house; they are the most objectionable tenants that any landlord can possibly have. (Applause). Then, again, I hope it will not be necessary, but the idea cannot but have occurred to everybody, that the quarterly night passes expired last night and perhaps the Government may see fit to hesitate reissuing them, and I think that would be felt to be a powerful stimulus to any who have the power of reconciling the present differences. I think this is a sedition; it is a dangerous

position in the colony with 20,000 idle Chinese coolies, or within a quarter of that number, in their houses with nothing to do. I think, gentlemen, it would be quite lawful—I do not know whether the Ordinance would empower it—to go into the houses and give the men the option of being deported by the Canton steamer that evening, or being turned out to work. (Applause). And, gentlemen, I am sure they would go to work. They only want an excuse for refusing to obey these men who rule them with a rod of iron. Give them an excuse and they will go to work. (Applause). I would ask the Chairman's permission to move this resolution, which I have just prepared for this meeting:—"That this meeting desires respectfully to express its approval of the firm attitude maintained by H.E. Sir William Robinson and the Government in connection with the present coolie strike, and to record its conviction that by such means alone can the present difficulty be overcome and its recurrence prevented." (Applause).

Mr. R. SHEWAN seconded the resolution. With all due deference he thought the meeting was a mistake. He refused to believe that a British community was incapable of dealing successfully with Chinese coolies. They as loyal subjects had only to give ready and loyal support to the Government. It would be time enough to offer assistance to the Government when they were asked for it. The Government was perfectly able to put this strike down (applause), and he asked them to show these coolies that the Government was fully capable of putting down this rebellion of Chinese. (Renewed Applause).

Mr. H. SMITH—It is very comforting of Mr. Ho Tung to come here and assure us that the leading Chinese have no influence, directly or indirectly, over the strikers. Perhaps I might ask him how it was that after the leading Chinese had met the Committee the other day, as if by a wag of the finger, all the coolies went to work again, and now, after these deliberations, the arrangements proposed fell through, and as if by another wag of the finger the coolies again ceased work? Can you explain that?

Mr. HO TUNG—It is very easily explained. It is just what I said before about the leading Chinese. When we lend our services to the Government, if successful we get no benefits; and if anything goes wrong we get all the blame. The Chinese deputation, when they came here, told the Committee distinctly that they could not get at the head coolies and that they were all out of the colony. The deputation were asked again and again whether they could make any suggestion. They answered that the coolies did not want registration, as they were afraid it would lead to new taxes, and the deputation made the suggestion which was adopted by the Committee, and the Chinese that day fully expressed to the Committee that they did not commit themselves in any way. They did not not know if the coolies would go back or not. (To Mr. Keswick)—Did I not make the remark to you that, in spite of the circular, we were not sure that the coolies would return to work?

Mr. KESWICK—That is a correct statement.

Mr. HO TUNG—But having done that, we thought the coolies would go back. Mr. Smith asks how is it that by a turn of your finger the coolies turn back? It is because they thought the Government would issue a proclamation. The Government turned back, and did not issue the proclamation. It is easy to say the influential Chinese are at the bottom of this. That is all nonsense. It was the coolies who were aimed at, and they have objected all along. We tried to induce them to go back to work.

Mr. SMITH—I asked if you could explain how it was.

Mr. HO TUNG—Well, I have explained to you how it was.

Mr. ROBINSON said he had listened with much interest to what had been said, and he had not heard one word why the coolies had struck. The Committee had suggested that the householder or houseowner—he had forgotten which—should be registered instead of the head coolies, and that suggestion had been met by the statement on the part of the Government that the suggestion was preposterous, and it was pointed out that the owner could not be expected to see that the by-laws were carried out, and that they could not be responsible for the cleanliness of each individual house. With that statement of the Government he agreed,

and the Committee in proposing this suggestion to the Government were carrying out the Government's own words. If the thing was preposterous it was the Government that had proposed the preposterous regulations by passing the Ordinance. Mr. Mackintosh had said that it was a quibble as to words, and Mr. Denny had pointed out that under the Ordinance the householder is *ipso facto* responsible. The Government said that the head coolies had no grievance, but did the coolies strike without a grievance? The Committee had acted diplomatically in advising the Government to accept the registration of the householder instead of the tenant of the house or the head coolie, who received a few cents more a day for preparing the rice for the other coolies. It argued penury of resources on the part of the administration that it could not obviate this registration difficulty. If insisted on the law would become a dead letter; it was unworkable, impracticable. He maintained there was something more behind this in the shape of a grievance. Mr. Ho Tung, without meaning it, had given them a clue, and he had heard it from a gentleman of great experience in this colony—a gentleman who was present but whose name Mr. Robinson did not think he would be justified in giving. It was not merely the pains and penalties that would be exacted in a perfectly legitimate manner when the head coolie—the man who bought the rice for small batches of men and became responsible to the retail dealer for the payment—had to appear at the Magistracy, but it was most certainly the fear of an illegal exaction that had induced these men to strike. Every man in his own country stood in fear of his own officials, and every Chinaman in this colony stood in fear of the Chinese officials in the colony. Every lukong would levy his tax, and it was characteristic of the Chinese that they dare not tell the Government. But Mr. Ho Tung, unintentionally, had told them why. The officials in the colony could make a Chinaman say anything, but they could not make him speak the truth. (A laugh). It was moral courage that was wanting, and every head coolie knew, just as the gambling house keepers and totally different classes of people in this colony knew, that he would have to pay bribe money. Every head coolie who got his 10 cents per diem knew that something would have to go out of his pocket into that of the lukong or else he would be charged with overcrowding. That was why he would not register. Every man who registered, unless he paid these bribes, would have to go before the magistrate and into gaol. The magistrate could not help himself. He had to take the word of the lukong. In many cases the lukong would be telling the truth; in other cases for certain he would be enforcing his bribe. The head coolie would have to pay the blackmail to the police for ever or give up keeping his boarding house. The householder could not be made to pay a bribe, and it was by making the householder responsible, as suggested by the Committee, that they could find a remedy for the present difficulty. He suggested that as a mode of avoiding the evils of the present Ordinance the Government should see to the cleanliness of the coolie houses by appointing a man to visit the houses and see that the Ordinance was carried out. This man would be responsible for the houses being kept clean. He (Mr. Robinson) submitted that if the Government resorted to force, it would not be the Government that would have to pay the piper, but the mercantile community, who ought to be consulted and who ought to call the tune because they paid the piper. (Applause).

Mr. G. C. C. MASTER—Mr. Chairman, Mr. Sharp some time ago put a resolution to the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Shewan. Mr. Robinson has addressed the meeting and has put no amendment. I propose that the resolution be now put—Mr. Sharp's resolution. This meeting was called for to-day, and one of the chief objects I understand was to see if any suggestions could be made to put down the strike. As to what the Government may do in the future about sanitation, &c., that takes some time. This meeting either supports the Government in the present crisis or not. If Mr. Robinson—or any other gentleman—has no amendment to put of want of support, I propose that the resolution be now put, and although this Committee has retired I would ask Mr. Keswick to put the resolution to the meeting. (Hear, hear, and applause).



The CHAIRMAN put the resolution to the meeting and it was carried *nem. con.*

The CHAIRMAN—I do not know whether that may be taken as the termination of the meeting, but assuming that it is. I am sure I am expressing the opinion of every one present when I say that the meeting has not been called in vain, as we have had an expression of opinion from various speakers, who have thrown some light on the present difficulty. For the Committee, I may say, as I said in my few opening remarks, that they are most anxious to give the Government every support in their power in the future as in the past. Their public functions now cease, but by suggestion and every way in their power, they will do their best to uphold the hands of the Government. (Applause). Of course, in a great difficulty such as this, as I have already said at the opening of the meeting, the Government is bound to be successful in the long run. No person, I am sure, for a single moment doubted when the strike commenced that the Government must eventually prevail, but the question is what is to be the cost. If they are going to gain the day over the coolies by the process of exhaustion, the loss will be enormous, and I do not think the Government would sacrifice any dignity at all by accepting the recommendations made—far be it from me to recommend anything of the kind, but I do say if the suggestion made by the Committee is considered a bad one, an unwise one, let us calmly consider whether there is any better suggestion which will put this difficulty at an end at an early date. The loss entailed among the gentlemen present, and probably to many gentlemen who are not here, is unseen and undreamt of. This strike is felt enormously by the Chinese themselves. I am told—I have not gone, but if any of you have gone along the west end of the town you will have seen that there is very little business being done where ordinarily the 20,000 coolies out on strike would have been working to provide for the wants of 260,000 people. The business of the Chinese as well as the foreign community is practically at a standstill. If I may venture to speak on behalf of the Committee as well as myself, I would say I express no repentment with respect to the criticisms passed on the Committee. As stated in their letter, the registration of the owners instead of tenants is a subject upon which opinions may well differ. And I see no reason for the condemnation? I am sure the Government by stating its adherence to its original design to quell this strike by its own strong arm will succeed as certainly as I am addressing you now, but loss to this colony will be huge. I cannot tell you, gentlemen, how soon good common sense may prevail with these laborers; I trust it may be to-morrow—I trust it may be to-day—so much the better and I would be the first—I and my colleagues on the Committee would be the first to congratulate the Government upon the termination of the difficulty which at the present time I do not see the end of. With these remarks—and I know they are inadequate to the occasion, although they are the best that occur to me on the spur of the moment—I wish the Government every success, and I beg if any gentleman has a practical suggestion to make to the Government he will make it without delay. (Applause.)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. MACKINTOSH, brought the proceedings to a close.

#### NOTICE ISSUED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The following notice was issued by the Governor yesterday afternoon:—

Whereas it has been ascertained that evil disposed persons are circulating false rumours that a poll tax is to be levied and that registration fees are to be charged, though it has been notified again and again that no poll tax is to be levied and no registration fees are to be charged, a reward of \$1,000 is hereby offered to any person who gives information at once which will lead to the arrest of the persons who are spreading these lying rumours and misleading the people. The law must be obeyed. If you are in doubt as to its provisions, though they have been already explained, you can apply to the Registrar-General, who will supply any information you may desire. Obey!

On Monday the German ships in harbour dressed ship in honour of Prince Bismarck's birthday.

### COMMERCIAL.

#### SILK.

SHANGHAI, 28th March:—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—Home advices dated 127th current report the market "steady." Gold Killing 7/6, Blue Elephants 9/3. Raw Silk.—Notwithstanding that the news from Europe reports the silk manufacturers to be busy, prices do not seem to show any signs of improvement. Our market during the week has been quiet. Tatlees.—Only a small business has been done, 200 bales having changed hands at about last week's rates. Yellow Silks.—The demand which has been a strong one during the past fortnight seems now to have subsided, and we do not hear of any transactions this week. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 21st to 27th instant, are 777 bales of White, 100 bales of Yellow, and 2 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—Contracts for Filatures continue to be made, and we estimate the same for this week at about 3,400 bales, at rates showing somewhat higher pieces. Wild Silks.—Stocks very small and no fresh business to report. Waste Silk.—With the exception of a transaction, 350 piculs Honan No. 2 (whole bales) at Tls. 19, there is nothing to report. Pongees.—1,000 pieces Shantung Pongees 21/22 oz. have been booked at Tls. 2.50, also 1,000 pieces 20/21 at Tls. 2.40.

Purchases include:—Tatlees.—Buffalo 3 at Tls. 410, Gold Elephant at Tls. 392, Mountain 4 at Tls. 380, Gold Killing at Tls. 335, Double Silver Elephant at Tls. 335, Yaonlay Seeling at Tls. 332, Taysam.—9/12 Moss Double Butterfly 2 at Tls. 297, Filature.—Eagle Horse Croises 1 and 2 at Tls. 490 to 480, San Tien Chang Cock and Centipede 1 and 2 at Tls. 470 to 460, Black Horse 1 and 2 at Tls. 465 to 455, Double Swallow 1 and 2 at Tls. 440 to 430. Re-reels.—Market Chop at Tls. 310 to 320.

#### CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 2nd April.—No supplies coming forward from Formosa prices continue to advance. Quotations for Formosa are \$58.00 to \$59.00. During the past week sales have been 150 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor nil.

#### SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 2nd April.—The market has continued dull and a further decline has to be reported. Following are the quotations:—Sheklong, No. 1, White...\$7.30 to 7.35 per picul. do. " 2, White... 6.85 to 6.90 " Sheklong, No. 1, Brown... 4.60 to 4.70 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.40 to 4.50 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.30 to 7.35 " do. " 2, White... 6.70 to 6.72 " do. " 1, Brown... 4.35 to 4.50 " Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.20 to 4.25 " Foochow Sugar Candy...10.50 to 10.60 " Sheklong " " 9.30 to 9.34 "

#### MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The British steamship *Keemun*, Hongkong to London, 29th January, took:—230 casks Ginger, 230 packages Canes, 86 cases Bristles, and 1 package Samples. From Amoy:—553 boxes Tea and 480 half-chests Tea. From Foochow:—1,870 half-chests Tea, 1,159 boxes Tea, 95 packages Canes, and 3 boxes Sundries.

The P. & O. steamer *Malacca*, Hongkong to London, 23rd March, took:—6 cases Cigars, 10 bales Duck Feathers, 509 packages Tea, 41 packages Sundries, 101 bales Waste Silk, 270 bales Pierced Cocoons, 80 bales Canes, 1 case Silk Piece Goods, 300 casks Preserves, 138 cases Chinaware, 25 cases Blackwoodware, 53 cases Bristles, and 712 bundles Mattings; for Buenos Ayres:—1,800 packages Tea and 3 packages Rattan Chairs.

#### OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 2nd April.—Bengal.—The market has ruled quiet with hardly any fluctuation in rates. New Patna continues to be quoted at \$727, Old at \$710, New Benares \$712, and Old \$695.

Malwa.—There has been scarcely anything doing in this drug during the period under review. The following are the current quotations:—

New ..... \$690 with allow'ce. of 0 to 1 cts. Old (2 to 4 yrs.) \$720 " 0 to 1 " " (5 to 7 yrs.) \$730 " 0 to 1 "

Persian.—Sales have been moderate and exchange has taken place in rates during the interval. Oily drug closes at \$720 to \$750, and Paper-wrapped at \$750 to \$800 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna.....1,200 chests. Old Patna..... 980 " New Benares ..... 160 " Old Benares .....1,090 " Malwa ..... 850 " Persian .....1,000 "

### COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 28	727½	710	700	690	690	720/730
Mar. 29	732½	710	708½	690	690	720/730
Mar. 30	735	710	700	720	690	720/730
Mar. 31	735	710	710½	700	690	720/730
April 1	732½	710	716½	695	690	720/730
April 2	727½	710	712½	695	690	720/730

#### RICE.

HONGKONG, 2nd April.—Owing to the strike vessels arriving with rice cargoes have gone up to Canton to unload, and prices here have advanced, but have declined at Canton. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul
Saigon, Ordinary .....	\$2.16 to 2.18
" Round, good quality .....	2.36 to 2.38
" Long .....	2.44 to 2.46
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 .....	2.22 to 2.25
" Garden, " No. 1 .....	2.52 to 2.54
Siam White .....	2.98 to 3.00
" Fine Cargo .....	3.23 to 3.26

#### MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—\$40 bales No. 10 at \$68 to \$77. 395 bales No. 12 at \$68.50 to \$71.50, 75 bales No. 16 at \$76, 405 bales No. 20 at \$79.50 to \$83.50. T-Cloths.—1,125 pieces Mex. 4 Stags at \$2.12½.

METALS.—Tin.—200 slabs Siam at \$35.50 to \$36.80, 100 slabs Foong Choi at \$36.

SHANGHAI, 28th March.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—The peace negotiations, on which so much now depends, have been rudely interrupted by the dastardly attempt on the life of China's Envoy. Fortunately it did not prove fatal, and it can only be hoped that, as some reparation for the outrage, the Japanese will so far moderate their demands as to make a settlement possible. The feeling is, however, there is very little chance of that for some time to come; their operations, which are being extended row to the south of this, strongly supporting this view of the situation. The weather in the north has remained too severe to admit of any movement of importance in that direction, but all preparations are being made for an advance on the capital, which will probably take fully two months to accomplish, and during that time trade is doomed to languish. The position of affairs in the Newchwang district is thus described in a circular dated 20th February from that port:—"Business is almost nil. Cart traffic has been paralysed by brigandage in one quarter and military demonstrations in the other. The northern farmers, unable to send down the produce, are therefore unwilling to buy the imports which were sent up country before the river closed. The weather is intensely cold, and the river will probably not open before the 23rd March. If peace is arranged before then, or if this port, the river, Liao, and the bean districts are unmistakably in the hands of the same power (whether Japan or China), we hope to see produce coming down in May, and to have a good summer export trade. If otherwise, the prospect is most discouraging." The port and river are already in the hands of the Japanese, but it will probably be some time before the surrounding country is subjugated. No steamers have been despatched thence from here as yet. The trade with Vladivostok has recommenced in a satisfactory way and promises to show still further developments than were exhibited last year. Already some fair orders have been booked here for goods to arrive, in addition to what has been shipped to that market. There is no doubt that as the Siberian railway progresses new outlets for all kinds of goods will be opened up, and this is bound to be the chief source from which supplies will be drawn. Deliveries continue in a healthy state for the River markets, but the natives do not require yet to call on importers for further supplies to any extent, so that the current business has again been very small. The upward movement which continued in exchange until this morning has naturally had a weakening effect on prices, but at the same time it has enabled some forward business to be put through. The reaction has been as sudden as the rise and caused a feeling of great uncertainty. The Manchester market is quiet, but steady.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report).—29th March.—There have been some sales of Lead



L. B. at Tls. 5.47½ prompt, and Australian has been done at Tls. 5.20. Railroad Iron.—200 tons reported done last week turn out to be Giffin 2 Crowns at 102½; besides about 600 tons Alliance and Sobiers have been done at 101½ to 102½ c. i. f. and c. Hoops and Bar Iron.—Nothing doing. Iron Wire is neglected, and offers can only be got at much under cost. I sold 300 casks Wire Nails, usual assortment, for Native account at auction at Tls. 3.70 to Tls. 3.75. Indents have been booked for 150 casks Zinc Sheathing; 200 tons Scotch Railroad; 150 tons Plate Cutting; 100 tons Selected Scrap at private terms.

### TUESDAY, 2nd April. EXCHANGE.

<b>ON LONDON.—</b>	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand .....	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight .....	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight .....	2/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight .....	2/2½
<b>ON PARIS.—</b>	
Bank Bills, on demand .....	2.70
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	2.76
<b>ON GERMANY.—</b>	
On Demand .....	2.18
<b>ON NEW YORK.—</b>	
Banks Bills, on demand .....	52½
Credits, 60 day's sight .....	53½
<b>ON BOMBAY.—</b>	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	192
Bank, on demand .....	192½
<b>ON CALCUTTA.—</b>	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	192
Bank, on demand .....	192½
<b>ON SHANGHAI.—</b>	
Bank, at sight .....	71½
Private, 30 day's sight .....	7-½
<b>ON YOKOHAMA.—</b>	
On demand .....	½ % pm.
<b>ON MANILA.—</b>	
On demand .....	8 % pm., nom.
<b>ON SINGAPORE.—</b>	
On demand .....	½ % pm.
<b>SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate.....</b>	
9.13	
<b>GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael .....</b>	
47.50	

### JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 2nd April.—Rates have ruled firm during the week under review, the chief feature in the market being a further rise in Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. Market closes steady and firm all round.

**BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghai.—In sympathy with further rises in London the rate here has gradually risen from 174 per cent. prem. as reported in our last to 185 per cent. prem. With a fair number of sales at those and intermediate rates, market closes steady at \$185. Nationals have found further buyers at \$21.

**MARINE INSURANCES.**—China Traders have changed hands at \$67, North Chinas at \$212½ and \$215, and Yangtses at \$103.

**FIRE INSURANCES.**—Hongkong have ruled in better demand and are enquired for without finding sellers at \$177½; Chinas have changed hands at \$78.

**SHIPPING.**—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have ruled rather weaker and sales were effected in the early part of the week at \$32. Later sales were made at \$32½, at which rate market closes steady. Indo-Chinas have ruled in good demand and have changed hands at \$45, \$45½, \$46, and \$46½, closing firm at latter rate. Douglas's have continued to rule weak and have been negotiated at \$48 and \$49, closing steady at latter rate. Other Shipping stocks are neglected.

**REFINERIES.**—Small sales of China Sugars at \$131 ex div. is all we have to report.

**MINING.**—With the exception of further sales of Balmorals at \$6.75 and \$7, the market has ruled inactive and we have nothing of importance to report.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Docks have improved their position to 94 per cent. premium with sales at that and earlier at 91, 92, and 93 per cent. premium. Lands have continued to rule firm at \$57, and Kowloons have changed hands at \$38 and \$39. Small sales of Watsons are reported at \$10.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
<b>Banks—</b>		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	185 p. ct. pm., sales
China, Japan, &c....	\$225.0	nom.
Do., Founders.....	\$1	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares.....	\$28	\$21, sales & buyers
Foun. Shares.	\$1	n. m.
Bell's Asbestos E. A. {	\$15	\$10
Brown & Co., H. G....	\$50	\$9.25, sales
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$4½
China Borneo .....	\$55	\$2
China Sugar .....	\$100	nom.
Chinese Loan '88 E., Tls. 250		\$131, ex div. sales
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	11 p. ct. pm.
Dairy Farm Co. ....	\$10	\$1
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$6.25, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$50	\$15, sellers
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	\$9, sales & sellers
H. & C. Bakery .....	\$5	\$4½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$10	\$36
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	\$125, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	\$4.75, sales
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$6½, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$76, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$38, sales & sellers
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	\$121
<b>Hotels—</b>		
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	94 p. ct. pm., sales
Shameen .....	\$20	[& sellers]
<b>Insurances—</b>		
Canton .....	\$50	\$9, buyers
China Fire .....	\$20	\$160, sales & sellers
China Traders' ...	\$5	\$78, sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire ...	\$50	\$67, sales & buyers
North-China .....	\$5	\$177½, buyers
Straits Marine.....	\$20	Tls. 215, sales
Union .....	\$5	\$20, sales & sellers
Yangtsze .....	\$50	\$157½
<b>Land &amp; Building—</b>		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$108, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$80	\$57½, sales
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9, buyers
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$10 9½
Luzon Sugar .....	\$100	\$17, sales
<b>Mining—</b>		
New Balmoral.....	\$3	\$45, ex div. sales
Charbonnages.....	\$131.58	\$6.90, sales & sellers
Jelebu .....	\$5	\$75, sellers
Punjom .....	\$34	\$4.1, sales
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$6, sales
Raub .....	13s. 10d	\$1.75
<b>Steamship Coys.—</b>		
China & Manila ...	\$50	\$4.25, sales & buyers
Douglas S. S. Co....	\$50	\$39, sales & sellers
H., Canton, & M....	\$20	\$49, sales
Indo-China S. N....	\$20	\$3½, sales
W'chai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$46½, sales & buyers
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$37½

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 29th March:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares changed hands for cash at 160, 165, 170 and 172½ per cent. premium, and for 31st July delivery at 170, per cent. The Hongkong market rose to 175 per cent. premium, but has since declined to 172 per cent. National Bank of China.—Shares have been placed, from Hongkong, at \$21. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed at Tls. 29½, Tls. 30 and Tls. 31½ for cash, and for 30th April at Tls. 30. Taku Tug and Lighter shares are wanted at T. Tls. 60½. Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat shares have been sold to Hongkong at \$30, and locally at \$31 and \$32. There are shares offering at the higher rate. Docks.—Shares in Boyd & Co. were placed at Tls. 155, and S. C. Farnham & Co. at Tls. 137½ and Tls. 140. Marine Insurance.—Business has been done in China Traders to Hongkong at \$65, North-Chinas at Tls. 205. Tls. 207½, and both locally and to Hongkong at Tls. 210, Yangtses at \$102½, and Canton at \$157½. Fire Insurance.—Hongkong were placed at \$176 and Chinas at \$77. Mining.—Raub Gold Mining shares were sold at \$4. Cargo Boats.—Shanghai shares changed hands at Tls. 142½. Miscellaneous. Hall & Heltz shares were placed at \$18 and \$20, Shanghai Land Investment shares at Tls. 33½, Hongkong Land Investment shares, locally and from Hongkong, at \$57½, J. Llewellyn & Co.'s shares at \$37½ and \$40, Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 390, and Shanghai-Lankat Tobacco shares at Tls. 95, Tls. 100, Tls. 101, Tls. 105 and Tls. 107½ for cash, Tls. 105 for 30th June, and Tls. 125 for 31st July.

### TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 29th March:—(From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—We have but a slight improvement to report in freight business homewards, but after all, the present condition is about on a par with that of recent seasons for this time of year, though prospects of this state of things improving are not very brilliant. Tientsin has forwarded but a poor quantity of

cargo for homeward-bound vessels, and there does not seem to be much more coming forward in the near future. Coastwise.—From Chinkiang to Whampoa several local coasters have been taken up at 19 candareens, and for the moment there does not seem to be much enquiry for outsiders, excepting from this to the latter port. Japan rates are practically unchanged, and there is no very great demand for tonnage. Rates of freight are:—Shanghai to London, P. & O. S. N. Co., O. S. S. Co., Ben Line, C. M. S. N. Co., Glen Line, and Shire Line, 40s. per ton general cargo; 45s. waste silk. Shanghai to Northern Continental ports 42s. 6d. per ton general cargo; 45s. waste silk. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Shanghai to London Shell Line 40s. less 10 per cent.; to Hamburg 35s. net; to New York 44s. net. Shanghai to New York direct 50s. tea and general cargo, via London, 50s., sailer 22s. Shanghai to Havre direct—General cargo per ton of 40 cubic feet 37s. 6d. net, of 20 cwt. 45s. net. Shanghai to Genoa and Marseilles—General cargo per ton of 40 cubic feet 35s. net, of 20 cwt. 45s. Chefoo to Swatow nothing doing; Chinkiang to Canton 19 candareens; Wuhu to Canton and Swatow nothing doing; Moji to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.70 per ton coal. Settlements during the fortnight:—Oanfa, British steamer, 1,970 tons register, Chinkiang to Whampoa, 16 candareens per picul. Rosary, British steamer, 712 tons register, same voyage, 18 candareens per picul. Disengaged vessel in port.—Orealla, British ship, 1,708 tons register.

### VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Manila (str.), Pekin (str.), Bombay (str.).  
For HAVRE and HAMBURG.—Oceana (str.).  
For BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).  
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).  
For VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria (str.).  
For SAN FRANCISCO.—City of Peking (str.), Queen Margaret, Gaelic (str.).  
For NEW YORK.—Benlarig (str.), Sachem (str.).  
For AUSTRALIA.—Menmuir (str.).

### SHIPPING

#### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

#### HONGKONG.

<b>ARRIVALS.</b>	
March—	
31, Holstein, German str., from Canton.	
31, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.	
31, Siam, British str., from Saigon.	
31, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.	
31, Queen Margaret, Brit. sh., from Shanghai.	
31, St. David, Amr. ship, from Shanghai.	
31, Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.	
31, Tailee, German str., from Saigon.	
31, Sweaborg, Rus. torpedo boat, from Saigon.	
31, Gremiasit Cly, Russian g-bt., from Saigon.	
31, Asloun, British str., from Saigon.	
April—	
1, Bayern, German str., from Shanghai.	
1, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.	
1, Pingsuey, British str., from Chinkiang.	
1, Arthur Head, British str., from Bangkok.	
1, Fidelio, German str., from Saigon.	
1, Kaim, Norw. str., from Saigon.	
1, Swatow, German str., from Pakhoi.	
1, Palamed, British str., from Liverpool.	
1, Tetartos, German str., from Saigon.	
2, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.	
2, Sydney, French str., from Shanghai.	
2, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., from Whampoa.	
2, Teyi, German str., from Tientsin.	
2, Airlie, British str., from Sydney.	
2, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.	
2, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.	
2, Hangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.	
2, Cheangchow, British str., from Straits.	
2, Machew, British str., from Canton.	
March—	
31, Carmarthenshire, British str., for London.	
31, Chunshan, British str., for Canton.	
31, Donar, German str., for Canton.	
31, Fushun, British str., for Canton.	
31, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.	
31, Siam, British str., for Canton.	
31, Taisang, British str., for Canton.	
April—	
1, Benmohr, British str., for Macao.	
1, C. H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.	
1, Ixion, British str., for London.	
1, Taichow, British str., for Whampoa.	
1, Tailee, German str., for Canton.	
1, Tellus, Norw. str., for Whampoa.	
1, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.	
2, Asamor, British str., for Singapore.	
2, Bogstad, Norw. str., for Whampoa.	
2, China, German str., for Whampoa.	
2, Fidelio, German str., for Macao.	
2, Holstein, German str., for Swatow.	
2, Pingsuey, British str., for Whampoa.	
2, Thales, British str., for Swatow.	